

# Newsletter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society

## POINTS OF INTEREST

February 2002 Volume 5, Issue 2

### Show & Sale—Better Than Ever with Your Help

There are some exciting changes in store for the CCSS Show & Sale this year. Many of our old favorites will be returning as well.

The Show & Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31. We will be setting up on Friday, March 29.

The biggest change is the space we will have available. In previous years, we have had only Mitchell Hall, but this year we will also have the new Gates Hall and Gates Court. As you come through the main entrance, Gates Court is straight ahead, directly behind the lobby garden, and Gates Hall is to the left of the Court. Many of you may be familiar with Gates Hall from having attended Panayoti's lecture and slide show, which was held in Gates Hall, last year.

The Show will have more space in Gates Hall, and workshops will be more visible on the Mitchell Hall stage. To free up space in Mitchell Hall for more plants, winter-hardy plants will be moved to Gates Court if there's room enough for them—we have a lot of vendors selling winter-hardy plants this year. Otherwise, we may move other merchandise to the Court.

**As for old favorites, Lee Phelps will again come from San Diego to judge. He will also present workshops on *Bonsai***

*for Succulents and How the Judges Pick the Winners.* The Wilsons will be back, along with some of their show plants, and Joyce Bateman-Hochtritt will be bringing a larger selection of her

show plants. Golden Sands, Silver Mesa, Leo Chance, Homer Hill, and Carol Wychern and her pots will also be back.

Denver Botanic Gardens is working closely with us. In addition to the extra space, we will again be able to use most of the kitchen facilities. DBG has also put a beautiful display of cactus and succulents in the lobby garden.

We owe many thanks to Don Campbell and Joe McCleary for taking charge of the Show, to Margo Verkutis for coordinating the food, and to Pam Story for handling publicity. Jim Cuscaden was invaluable for all the work he put into negotiating with DBG.

Now comes the hard part:

#### **WE NEED HELP!**

With more space, we will need more hours from more volunteers during the Sale. Many of you have signed up for Friday to help set up, but we hope you will be able to volunteer some time on the other days too. We will give details in next month's *POI* about what jobs need to be filled, but we need volunteers now for the following activities:

Designing signs for the new areas

Presenting workshops

Providing a pickup truck most of Friday and Sunday afternoon

We also need someone to volunteer to be next year's publicity coordinator to work with Pam now. While Pam will have a notebook of her procedures, it

#### **New Meeting Place**

Old habits die hard, so even though there was a reminder of our new meeting place in last month's *POI*, here's another. This year CCSS will hold meetings at the Waring House on the northwest corner of 9th and York Streets, just south of the Denver Botanic Gardens.

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would be really helpful if a new person can train  
with the current coordinator.

## **Presidential Thoughts**

# **A Mix of English Gardens and Board Meeting Notes**

*Hello, and greetings from the other side of the Atlantic! Here we are in England, my wife and I, staying with my sister in Over Wallop, a picture postcard village about 70 miles west of London. We are enjoying life in the countryside, but we are also in easy reach of the city and the cathedral towns of Winchester and Salisbury.*

*We made a visit to Kew Gardens, which is the largest botanical exhibit around London. Our visit occurred on a typical winter day, with rain and strong winds, but it was nice to see some early signs of spring. The camellias were starting to bloom and the bulbs were in bud. My main interest was in checking out the cactus and succulent display in the Princess of Wales glass house, a relatively new venue that was opened about 15 years ago. They have a fine display of the larger agaves, yuccas, and euphorbias, but their selection of smaller plants is rather modest. A major benefit of the exhibit was its warmth, as we were starting to show early signs of frostbite by the time we had walked through gardens!*

*The CCSS board held a meeting before the general meeting on January 9 with all the newly elected officers present. One of the first issues that was agreed upon was the publication of meeting decisions in P.O.I. I hope that we will initiate this practice in an upcoming edition.*

We discussed the new draft CCSS Mission Statement and Goals and agreed that we would publish them in full for your comment by the end of February. The main thrust behind these statements is to support an inclusive CCSS activity throughout the State of Colorado that is not confined to our membership activities but will also include our outreach/donation program. This issue is important, and the board would appreciate your feedback.

In discussing our annual budget, the board voted to provide the Chinle Chapter \$500 to support its monthly meeting and educational programs. This amount is proportionate to what we spend in Denver to bring in keynote speakers and to provide the plant draws. Further, when speakers do come to Denver, it is hoped that they will be made available to the Chinle Chapter.

Rebecca Spurling will coordinate the CCSS booth activities at the Echers Echxpo on March 1, 2, and 3. Our presence at this exhibition promotes our own Show & Sale and we plan to have a different display for this year.

We then discussed the Show & Sale plans and were glad to hear that its organization is nearly in place. Don Campbell and Joe McCleary will be co-chairs of the Show. Helen Norton gave the details of the changes. We were especially pleased to hear of the extra room we will have this year. (See her article for details.)

The board also discussed the CCSS monthly programs, and we have tentatively made plans to modify their format. Starting in April, the meetings will start 30 minutes earlier

so that we can have a special interest group presentation before the main speaker. This idea came out of the member survey, and we hope that the presentations will be popular.

We are planning for the Grand Junction field trip in May and for a possible second field trip in June. Roswitha Moehring and Don Campbell have some excellent ideas on activities for field trips.

All in all, the meeting was a good start to the new year, and we plan to provide CCSS with an exciting program throughout 2002.

As I mentioned last month, I have asked Helen Norton to handle any day-to-day issues that you would be asking me about. I will report back to you after we get back from our trip.

Well, Sharron and I are flying off to South Africa on January 24 for a two-week safari. We will be in northeast Natal and Mozambique. We plan to photo-graph animals. No doubt, however, I will be keeping my eyes open for succulents and other plants! We can't wait to get out there and enjoy the sunshine.

Good luck to you all, and I look forward to seeing you in March.

**--Jim Cuscaden**

[Jcuscaden@aol.com](mailto:Jcuscaden@aol.com) / 303-659-8428

February Meeting

**Chris Barnhill**

**DBG Succulent Curator**

Chris Barnhill, the curator of succulents at DBG, will be the speaker at our February meeting. He will talk about his plans for new succulent displays at the gardens. Chris will use this session to interact with CCSS members to help him solidify his planning.

We hope that our members will take advantage of this opportunity to find out what's new at DBG and have their ideas heard and that they will give Chris the benefit of their ideas and experience in growing cactus and succulents on the Front Range.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the Waring House.

**Show & Sale**

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will bring general sign-up sheets to the February and March meetings, but if anyone can help with the items listed above or is interested in helping in a specific area (membership, food, potting table, etc.), please call Helen Norton at (970) 353-9581 or Susanna Feighny at (970) 356-2677.

Remember, to qualify for the member discount, you must work at least six hours.

Finally, there are two things you can do now to start preparing:

- *Start saving beer flats.* We'll need more of them than ever. Ask your local liquor store or grocery store to save them for you, and pick them up

**Resources on the Web**

Thanks to Rose Nordenberg, editor of the Chapter newsletter, for the following information:

For cross references between scientific common names, see

[cactus-mall.com/names.html](http://cactus-mall.com/names.html)

[www.cactusbymail.com](http://www.cactusbymail.com)

This is copy of e-mail received for a discussion group.

Hello,

I have started a new and easy to use gardening forum. My goal is to have a large gardening community all in one place. This community will have experts and professionals giving advice and product information. I have started a category specifically for cacti and succulents, and I'm looking for cacti and succulent enthusiasts to use it as a resource. This is a great way to communicate with other people with similar interests. Also, if you have a product group, or related concept to push, this is a great place to do it. If you are interested, please visit the forum or email me at

[support@windowgreenhouses.com](mailto:support@windowgreenhouses.com)

Thank you,

<http://windowgreenhouses.com>

on a regular basis. You'll have to store them yourself until the setup on Friday, March 29, at DBG, but don't let that slow you down. They can serve as footstools, doggie beds, or extra blankets on your bed. (And if you can't use them for those things, you probably won't need the trunk of your car until the show, will you?)

- *Prepare your show plants.* We want to put on the best show ever, and we have the space to do it!

--**Helen Norton, Susanna Feighny**

**MEMBER PLANT SALES**

For members who sell their wares at the sale, we have modified the split this year.

We think it will be fair for both the members and the club. It's a graduated split based on the member's total sales, including plants and other merchandise.

<u>Sales Amount</u>	<u>Member/Club Split</u>
\$0 to \$99.99	90/10
\$100 to \$199.99	80/20
\$200 to \$299.99	70/30
\$300 to \$399.99	60/40
\$400 and up	55/45

The split with commercial vendors will be 55/45; if total sales exceed \$57,000, vendors will receive an extra 5 percent.

Members who would like participate in the sale should call Helen Norton at (970) 353-9581 to reserve space.

# Meet Your Board Members

## **Jim Cuscaden: President**

My wife, Sharron, and I lived in Colorado in the 1980s, and moved back in 1998 to retire near our kids and their families. We bought a house in the Brighton area, and soon began landscaping. Since the housing development where we live gets its water from wells, we have a very limited water supply. We therefore checked into xeriscaping, which led us to cacti and succulents. I learned about CCSS from a notice at Paulino Gardens.

My interests lie in gardening, golf, and travelling; in my gardening, I have really enjoyed working with cacti. My main passion is, perhaps, the larger plants, the yuccas and agaves, but anything that can survive in this climate gets my appreciation. I have also started an indoor collection, and focus on haworthias and caudiciforms.

I joined the Society in 1999 and have had the privilege to be your president since 2000. It has been a great experience, and I have appreciated your friendship and the knowledge that you have passed on to this old dog!

## **Don Campbell: Chinle Chapter President**

In about 1983 or 1984, I visited the CCSS Show & Sale and bought a “Spineless Easter Lily Cactus” (*Echinopsis subdenudata*), which I’ve managed to keep alive to this day. A year or so later, I joined CCSS and gradually became addicted to cacti and other succulent plants. In the late 1980s, I served as treasurer and member-at-large, and I co-chaired the Show & Sale with one of the Grand Old Guys of CCSS, Jim Sykes. In 1989, I was the treasurer for the National CSSA Convention, which was hosted by CCSS.

My retirement from the Forest Service in 1992 allowed me to escape from the rapidly growing congestion of the Denver area and move to the relative tranquillity of Grand Junction, a.k.a. “Paradise Valley.” Proximity to the peaceful deserts, canyons, and mesas of western Colorado and eastern Utah is infinitely and irresistibly more alluring than the madness of the Front Range. The new abode in Grand Valley gave greatly expanded opportunities for a recently retired cactophile. A sunroom addition on the house along with a sizable winter-hardy C&S garden helped alleviate many of the cactophilic cravings for upclose and personal relationships with weird and exotic plants. However, the 250 miles separating Grand Junction and Denver proved to be a serious impediment to fraternizing with the cactophiles in CCSS. So in 2000, after a mere eight years of procrastinating (another of my special talents), I joined with about 35 other similarly afflicted individuals and formed the Chinle Chapter of CCSS. Since the chapter’s inception, I have been privileged to serve as its president, which, in turn, connotes membership on the CCSS Board.

## **Helen Norton: Show & Sale Co-Chair**

I was born in Denver, and have lived in Greeley with my husband, Lloyd, for 38 years. I have two children, Allan and Laura. Allan lives less than five miles from Griggsby’s (the

nursery where the Rodmans get most of the plants for our drawings) in San Diego. You should have seen me jumping around when he moved there! We hope to visit in May. My daughter just got married in October and lives here in Greeley.

I've had assorted jobs—bank teller, office super-visor, and some clerical—but have been retired the last four years. That means I'm busier than ever! In addition to being active in CCSS, I've been a Sweet Adeline for over 20 years, serving in just about every capacity except director. Laura sings with me in the chorus. I've also become active in Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, mostly in the Right to Read program; I'm currently tutoring three grade-school children. I have two dogs—Dougal, a neurotic border collie mix, and Dan, a Jack Russell. I've been training Dan for agility course competitions, and he's doing great. He really keeps me hopping! The only problem is I can't keep up with him.

There's no telling what I'll get into next (maybe grandchildren?), but it's always fun to see what's around the next corner!

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Short bios of the remaining board members will appear in upcoming issues of *POI*.

# Chinle Chapter News & Notes

## January Meeting

Following the usual business transactions, committee assignments, and annual dues reminder, president Don Campbell presented to the club the picturesque slides he captured of various locations throughout Arizona. Many varieties of cacti were shown in their habitat in their full blooming glory. Don's photographic expertise made the show very entertaining, informative, and enjoyable.

## Dues Reminder

Annual dues must be paid no later than March 1, 2002. New and renewed memberships are \$25 for an individual or organization and \$35 for a family. These dues include membership in both the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society and the Chinle Chapter of CCSS.

Make your checks payable to Chinle Chapter, CCSS. Give your check to treasurer Kent Nordenberg or mail it to

Chinle Chapter CCSS  
2171 Avenal Lane  
**Grand Junction, CO 81503**

## Upcoming Activities

**Regular Meeting**, February 14: Reed Irwin will help us catalog our plants. He has invited all of us to share our cataloging ideas.

**Regular Meeting**, March 14: We will prepare plants for the CCSS Show & Sale in

It's time 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 incorrect, use this form to correct it. Membership fees are \$15 for individuals and organizations and \$20 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Denver and the Art Center Plant Show in Grand Junction. Members are encouraged to bring their plants to the meeting.

Our regular meetings are held at the Rio Grande Federal Credit Union in Grand Junction at 6:30 p.m.

Please note these dates:

April 13: A weeding, clean-up workday is planned for the Extension Office Demonstration Garden at 8:00 a.m.

April 18th through 26: The Art Center Plant Show at Grand Junction will be held jointly with the Bonsai Club.

***“A light heart lives long.”***

Here's a valentine to delight the hearts of cactus lovers.

CCSS member Bobbie Irwin found this heart-shaped double fruit on an *Opuntia phaeacantha* in her garden in Montrose.

***Thanks to Bobbie for lightening our hearts by sharing her unusual specimen with us.***

***(For literature-loving cactophiles, the quotation is from William Shakespeare's Love's Labor Lost, Act V.)***

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## **Points of Interest**

Suzanne McNamara

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Lakewood, CO 80226