



SUCCULENT MORSELS

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society

March/April 2009

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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.

JANET COLES TO PRESENT MARCH 12TH PROGRAM



Janet Coles was spotted wearing a Chinle polo shirt in the Colorado National Monument sometime after her May 2008 presentation to the Chinle Club.

By Don Campbell

In March Janet Coles makes an encore presentation to the Chinle C&S Society. Many will remember her informative May 2008 program highlighting the plant communities of the Colorado Plateau.

At the March 12th meeting, Janet will focus on her participation in, and the results of, a 20 year long study of *Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*. *Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*, aka the "Mesa Verde Cactus", is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The "Mesa Verde Cactus" is unique to the Mancos Shale soils found in the Four Corners area of Colorado and New Mexico.

Janet is currently a vegetation ecologist with the National Park Service in Moab, UT. Prior to joining the Park Service, Janet spent 12 years as an ecologist with the Colorado Natural Areas Program where she worked to identify and protect areas with unique or high-quality natural values with statewide significance. Janet has a BS degree in biology from Oberlin College in Ohio and an MS degree in botany from the University of Vermont.

Following Janet's Presentation, I'm sure everyone will be impressed, not only with her knowledge, but also her passion for this endangered little cactus. When I asked if she would present this program to the Chinle bunch, she responded, "Thanks...for the opportunity. I like to talk about *Sclerocactus mesae-verdae* like most people like to talk about their kids".

LANDSCAPES WEST A SUCCESS

Thanks to Lynn Dunham and many volunteers, the CCSS booth was reported by many attendees at the Feb. 6-8, 2009, Landscapes West to be "one of the best" at the show. The updated photo display effectively showed the many aspects of the Society's activities and over 21 different members actively participated. Five new members were signed up. As Lynn said, "GREAT job everyone...!"

Set-up, take-down and/or booth workers: Lynn Dunham, Dieter and Nancy Kubisch, Joy Bush, John Moore, Tom Burrows, Lilly McAnally, Pat Severson, Maryann Benoit, Nancy Glover, Pam Johnson, Judy and Dave Kennedy, Susan Fuller, Don Campbell, Chris and Carol Christlieb, Bob Bubel and Peter Newbury. Thanks to Judy Kennedy for printing plant label cards, and to all the members who brought plants to display. Members showing plants: Don Campbell, Judy Kennedy, Dave Kennedy, John Moore, Kathleen McGinley and Janet Hassell.

Also, special thanks to Judy Kennedy for making the entry cards, to the Hassells for lending their digital photo frame, to Loren Benoit for his slide show and to Kathleen McGinley (and Donna Scott) for making gift plant certificates.





BLOOMIN' DEALS COMING UP!

By Al Severson

What better way is there to celebrate the start of spring than participating in the Bloomin' Deals plant sale! The Chinle club has long participated in the Western Colorado Botanical Garden's Bloomin' Deals and this year will be no exception. It will be held on the 9th of May at the Gardens from 9 am until 4 pm. Bloomin' Deals is always held the Saturday before Mother's Day, so it's a great place to pick up lovely gifts for Mom. There will be many other plant vendors and nature-related craft vendors.

Participating in this event allows the club to raise funds to help defray the costs of club activities. Perhaps even more importantly, it gives us an opportunity to bring the world of cacti and succulents to people who may not know much about them. It allows us a forum for recruiting new members. In fact, some of our most active members first joined the club because of Bloomin' Deals. It is a place to interact with other gardeners and gardening clubs as well.

Club members provide plants for the sale. Many members have committed to bring plants. If you would like to participate, it will never be too late to bring more plants to the sale. Persons who are bringing plants to the sale are asked to come to the March meeting at 6 pm to meet with Al Severson to discuss plans for the sale.

We will need volunteers to run our booth. It's a very fun event and a great way to spend a few hours on a Saturday with other plant lovers. There will be sign up sheet at the March meeting, so please consider volunteering for this event. Comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome. Contact Al Severson at alan.severson@gmail.com or 970-255-1005.

APRIL MEETING "ALL ABOUT DIRT!"

On April 9th, Dr. Curtis Swift will present a program on Soils and Water in the Grand Valley at the regular meeting of the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society. Members of the club look forward to sharing Curtis' expertise and should come away with new insights for working with the unique soils of our area as well as hydration issues.

THE "A-CLONE", OPUNTIA SULFUREA

By Don Campbell

Wondering what to do on a cloudy, cold and misty day last December in Tucson, we settled on the Tucson Botanic Gardens (TBG). The TBG is a favorite stop during our regular December visits down south.

The TBG is a delightful oasis consisting of 16 specialty gardens on 5.5 acres in the heart of Tucson. Our favorite garden, no surprise, features cacti and succulents. This year we noticed that the C&S garden had undergone some recent renovations and there were a number of new plantings. One recently planted prickly pear immediately caught my attention. It was only a three padded rooted cutting, however, the spination was fantastic, unlike anything I had seen before. The fat pads had spines that were spreading, thick, stiff, kinky, and twisted. A temporary plastic label identified this plant as *Opuntia sulfurea*. Being unfamiliar with this species, I made mental note for future reference.

Completing our tour of TBG, we decided to visit Bach's Cactus Nursery on the way back to our hotel. Bach's has fabulous selection of landscaping plants. While wandering amongst



the potted prickly pears looking for *O. sulfurea*, I was “accosted” by one of Bach’s omnipresent sales staff. I asked about *O. sulfurea* and was told that they did not have that particular species; however, he indicated some familiarity with the plant and said he would do a quick bit of research while we continued browsing the nursery. A few minutes later he reappeared, confirmed the nomenclature and told us about another Tucson nursery that reportedly had a “very special clone” of *O. sulfurea*. After getting the address and directions, we headed back downtown to Plants for the Southwest.

Arriving at Plants for the Southwest, we were delighted to find 4 or 5 one gallon pots of *O. sulfurea* available. This plant, along with many others, is listed on the Living Stones Nursery and Plants for the Southwest website: <http://www.lithops.net/> .

The following is taken from their on-line plant catalog. I gladly paid \$25 for the 7-padded specimen shown above.

Opuntia sulfurea. “This species is a clump forming plant to one foot. Native to Argentina, it has sulfur-yellow flowers”. Single, unrooted pads of this common form are listed at \$4.

Opuntia sulfurea – “A-Clone”

“This is the best clone of this species that I have seen. The spines are significantly longer, thicker, and are twisted, and the pads are much thicker than the normal type. It has a clear yellow flower. Together, these characteristics make this one of the most dramatic of all *Opuntias*. Native to Argentina, this clone is extremely slow growing, with only a few pads available for sale each year”. Single, unrooted pads of the “A-Clone” are listed at \$15.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

- Panayoti Kelaidis gave a compelling presentation of his South African Succulent Odyssey. His slides were accompanied by his always fascinating and humorous narrative, but he also expressed his deep concern that the human impact on the South African region has resulted in a threat to the habitat that supports so many of these rare succulents.
- Curtis Swift announced the construction of a 2-1/2 acre Teaching Garden to be associated with the CSU Extension Office.
- Kathleen McGinley asked that the goals of the Garden Committee be published in the next newsletter (see below).
- Pat Severson reviewed Bloomin’ Deals event, and requested that members who are selling plants meet 30 minutes early for the March meeting.



Speaker Panayoti Kelaidis

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Pat Severson reports that we have four new members who signed up at Landscapes West: Roger Stone, Sheryl Williams, Jack and Jolene Neckels, and Stephanie Matlock-Cooley. Pat will have updated member lists at the March meeting.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

The due date is **March 1st for 2009**. If you haven't sent your check to Pat by the March meeting, plan to pay that night. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Mail payments to: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, P.O. Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028. Questions, call Pat at 970-255-1005.

MEMBERSHIP APPROVES BYLAWS OF CHINLE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

At the well-attended meeting Feb. 5th, the members voted to approve new By-laws for the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society as well as new dues structure. Signed copies of the By-Laws will be available at the March general membership meeting, and will also be posted on the CSU website.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 12 **Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**
6:30 pm, Mesa Mall Comm. Room.
Program: **SCLEROCACTUS MESAE VERDAE**
Speaker: **Janet Coles - National Park Service, Moab**
- March 14 **GARDENING DAY - CSU EXT. OFFICE - 9 AM**
- March 25 **GARDENING DAY - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS - 9AM**
- March 27-29 Colorado CSS Show & Sale at Hudson Gardens, Denver.
(Note: There will not be a judged show this year at the Denver S&S.)
- APRIL 4 **GARDENING DAY - CSU EXT. OFFICE 9 AM**
- APRIL 9 **Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**
6:30 pm, Mesa Mall Comm. Room
Program: **SOILS AND WATER**
Speaker: **Dr. Curtis Swift, CSU Extension**
- April 9-15 Cactus & Succulent Society of America Biennial Convention
in Tucson, AZ
- APRIL 15 **GARDENING DAY - 9 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS**
- APRIL 2 **GARDENING DAY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION OFFICE**
- MAY 6 **GARDENING DAY - 9AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS**
- MAY 9 **BLOOMIN' DEALS - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS**
Al Severson, Coordinator, Chinle CSS
- MAY 14 **Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**
6:00 pm (Note change in time), at the "Book Cliffs View"
overlook, located just east of the Visitor Center in the Colorado
National Monument. Members may wish to arrive early and bring
their own "brown bag" picnic dinner. More details next month!
Program: **CLIMATE CHANGE & THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF
THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT.**
Speaker: **Don Regan, NPS, retired geologist**
- MAY 16 **GARDENING DAY - 9 AM - CSU EXT. OFFICE**
- MAY 27 **GARDENING DAY - 9 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS**
- JUNE 13 **Chinle CSS Summer Garden Tour & Picnic - Cedaredge/Montrose**
Area - Reed Irwin, Coordinator
- July 9 **Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**
Program To be Determined
- August 13 **Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**
Program: **"OUTDOOR (HARDY) C&S GARDENING"**
Speaker: **Reed Irwin**
6:30 pm., CSU Extension Office

GARDENING COMMITTEE GOALS ANNOUNCED

Kathleen McGinley, Chairperson, and the Gardening Committee Members (Mary Ann Benoit, Bob Bobel, Don Campbell, Jan Debolt, and Dieter Kubisch) have set the following goals for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors agreed to the funding requests from the Committee at their Feb. 2 meeting.

GARDEN COMMITTEE GOALS

1. Establish and distribute schedule for garden maintenance for 2009.
 - A. *Recognize members who help in the gardens in the Society newsletter.*
 - B. *Publish reminder notices in the Society newsletter about gardening days.*
 - C. *Notify members of gardening days via email (Don Campbell).*
 - D. *Provide refreshments to encourage participation in gardening days. Request \$125 from the Board of Directors for goodies.*
 - E. *Record amount of volunteer gardening hours and report to WCBG, CSU Extension Service, and the Chinle CSS Board of Directors (Kathleen McGinley).*
2. Maintain an accurate inventory of plants in the WCBG and Extension Service gardens.
 - A. *Request \$100 from the Board of directors to label new and replacement plants in the gardens with the same types of labels and stakes selected in 2008.*
 - B. *Order and place new labels by fall of 2009.*
 - C. *Publish updated lists that provide an accurate catalog of the plants and their names, as appear on the labels. Reproduction costs for the Extension Service plant list will be covered by Curtis Swift. Request \$50 from the Board of directors for reproduction of the plant list for WCBG.*
3. Coordinate watering schedules for the gardens with the Extension Service (Don) and WCBG (Kathleen). Make sure the gardens are watered before gardening days for ease of weeding.
4. Follow the guidelines on adding and removing plants. All plant introductions, replacements, thinning, and removals should be coordinated through the Garden Committee.
 - A. *Remove dead plants.*
 - B. *Plant replacements at the Extension Service garden: funding will be provided by Curtis Swift and purchased by Don.*
 - C. *Plant replacements at WCBG: Funding will be provided by the Chinle Chapter and purchasing by the Garden Committee. Request \$200 from the Board of Directors for plant replacement, pesticides, hardscape and mulch.*
 - D. *Schedule major pruning/replacement days annually at each location to make the gardens easier to maintain, to improve view ability and to tame the "bullies." Make cuttings available to club members.*
5. Follow the Pesticide Policy (available upon request) and manage the gardens to minimize the use of pesticides.
 - A. *Schedule the applications of pesticides at appropriate times and intervals.*
 - B. *Avoid the use of pesticides while work is in process on gardening days.*
 - C. *Apply pre-emergent herbicide in the early spring, late summer and fall.*
 - D. *Target control of cochineal scale insects and Opuntia bugs with the use of contact and systemic insecticides or by replacing heavily infested plants with varieties less susceptible to infestation by those insects*

DON'T FORGET...CHINLE CHAPTER GARDENING DAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

2009 Chinle Chapter Gardening Days

- If the weather is too cool or too hot for you to work, feel free to come later or earlier than the scheduled time.
- We'll meet at the location listed on each of the gardening days. After completing our work there, we'll proceed to the other garden, time permitting.
- Please make sure that any of the tools you bring are identified as yours.
- As we work on the gardens, please remember our motto: "When in doubt, don't pull it out!" We expect, however, that we will have experts available to help us identify which plants are to be removed, moved, or pruned.
- The Goodie Goddess/Gnome will make sure refreshments are served at each session!

We're looking forward to seeing you at our gardening parties. THANK YOU!

GARDENING DAYS SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION TO MEET
March 14	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
March 25	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
April 4	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
April 15	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
April 25	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
May 6	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
May 16	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
May 27	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
June 6	Saturday	8:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
June 17	Wednesday	8:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
June 27	Saturday	8:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
July 8	Wednesday	8:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
July 18	Saturday	8:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
July 29	Wednesday	8:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
August 8	Saturday	8:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
August 19	Wednesday	8:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
August 29	Saturday	8:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
September 9	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
September 19	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
September 30	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens
October 10	Saturday	9:00 AM	CSU Extension Office
October 21	Wednesday	9:00 AM	WC Botanical Gardens

WANT TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR FRONT RANGE COLORADO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP?

Ellen Taylor of Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society tells us that if you want to individually join the Colorado CSS, please send her the following information along with a check payable to CCSS in the amount of \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family membership to: Ellen Taylor, 8100 Barstow St., NE #1104, Albuquerque, NM 87122. For more information, call her cell phone at 303-249-6553.

Name _____ Address _____
City, State, Zip _____ email _____

Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Officers

President: Dieter Kubisch
dwkubisch@bresnan.net
970-243-7861

Vice President: Don Campbell
campbell.di.cj@bresnan.net
970-245-5088

Secretary: Carolyn Logan
carolyn.logan@bresnan.net
970-523-6363

Treasurer: Pat Severson
pssmesa@gmail.com
970-225-1005

Newsletter Editor: Janet Hassell
janetbill41@bresnan.net
970-263-0910

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society normally meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm
in the Community Room at Mesa Mall. Guests are always welcome.**