



Chinle Chapter

Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

FEBRUARY 2007

Chinle Chapter Status as Affiliate Questioned

Ed Hendrickx, who served as 2007 CCSS Treasurer for a few weeks until he resigned for personal reasons, took on the tasks of examining the current relationship of CCSS and the Chinle Chapter and the impact on CCSS if it continued to establish affiliated chapters within the state.

He concluded from his examination that CCSS by-laws do not allow for organizational affiliations, that CCSS approval was not obtained prior to the affiliation of the Chinle Chapter, and that Chinle Chapter did not take necessary actions with the Colorado Secretary of State and the IRS to become a bona fide non-profit entity.

Ed stated his opinion that there is no formal relationship between CCSS and

the Chinle Chapter. He recommended that the group be allowed to continue as an "ad hoc" committee of CCSS members on the Western Slope, subject to Chinle submitting an annual budget for CCSS approval with all financial transactions handled by the CCSS Treasurer. In addition, chapter dues would not be allowed to be collected.

His report was forwarded by CCSS President Marc Wilson to CCSS Board members and Chinle Chapter President Reed Irwin with Marc's recommendation that Chinle Chapter split off to become independent from CCSS because the option of CCSS taking over complete responsibility for Chinle's financial matters was not desirable in his opinion. Marc advocated taking enough

time to decide the issue with a goal of having a decision by the end of the first quarter of 2007.

The 2007 Chinle Board of Directors met with its 2006 Board members in early January to discuss the issue among other business. They agreed to recommend that CCSS amend its by-laws to allow the present structure with its affiliation with the Chinle Chapter. They pointed out that the CCSS filing with the Colorado Secretary of State allows it to carry on any lawful activity. The Chinle Board stated that it wants to remain as one organization with CCSS. These statements were put into a letter that was forwarded to the CCSS Board prior to its meeting on January 9.

The CCSS Board discussed the matter with Chinle President Reed Irwin attending by conference call. The Board decided to bring in an outside professional to make an assessment, identify any gaps and make appropriate recommendations.

In a joint statement, Marc Wilson and Reed Irwin said, "Changes to the current by-laws are expected. We hope those changes and their effect on our present organization will be minor. One possible recommendation may be to split our CCSS into two organizations. While we can't say how likely that conclusion will be, all club members will be given an opportunity to express their opinions and vote on any by-laws changes."

The statement continued to say, "Both the Society's Board and Chinle's Board want to remain as one organization and we will work toward that goal while also conforming to legal regulations. In the end, we expect this effort will make CCSS a stronger society."

Dylan Hannon Program Set for January

Can you imagine flying thousands of miles to a remote, primitive desert island half way between the political hot spots of Somalia, Yemen and other terrorist playgrounds? Amenities are few, and sun and succulents are abundant. Harrison Ford has nothing on this rising star of succulent exploration and cultivation!

Dylan Hannon has recently returned from just this adventure. Expect to see some spectacular aloes, euphorbias and many plants you may have never heard of. You'll see some fascinating glimpses of how humans live in this challenging setting. This is Dylan's first visit to CCSS: don't miss meeting this great new talent who is responsible for Huntington's spectacular new conservatory as well as propagation ranges. Dylan is legendary for his skill at growing difficult plants superbly.

Please note that this will be held at the traditional site for meetings: at the opulent Botanic Gardens administrative building. We are trying to transition to Gates Hall, **which was not available**

for February. Keep the newsletter handy to remind you each month which of the two sites have the meeting! Don't miss this! There will be a short and important business session planning for the March Sale: be there or be square!

Where: (Please Note) Waring House, corner of 9th Avenue and York Street Denver Botanic Gardens

When: 7:00 PM, February 13, 2007

What: **Socotra Expedition By Dylan Hannon**, Propagator, Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, California

CCSS Needs Treasurer

Ed Hendrickx has had to abruptly resign as CCSS 2007 Treasurer due to unforeseen health issues. Let's all wish him the best as he convalesces. Bob Vick, once again, has generously offered to remain in the job until we can find a replacement.

Please contact Marc Wilson to learn more: 303-799-9058, Marcwilson2@comcast.net.

John Moore Presents at Chinle Meet

President Reed Irwin opened the January Chinle Chapter meeting at 6:33 P.M. by recognizing Charles and Lois Baker and Winton Brophy for their services to the club in 2006, as they were not in attendance to receive recognition at the annual dinner meeting in December.

John Moore reported on checking with the Western Colorado Center for the Arts about a Chinle show there in April, but people there seemed to be all new and did not know enough to help. There was discussion about whether it would be a worthwhile effort to participate.

John also said he had signup sheets for us to participate in Landscapes West February 2nd-4th.

Reed told about the affiliation situation between CCSS and Chinle Chapter as discussed at the January 6th board meeting (see page 1) and the possibility of dropping the Mid-States Conference for next year because of the uncertain status of Chinle's relationship to CCSS. He said CCSS board was unanimous (with some abstaining) at their Tuesday meeting that the two groups should stay together if problems can be resolved. It was agreed that Chinle would hold off on canceling the Mid-States Conference until the issue is decided, provided a decision is made by April.

Kathleen McGinley said logo clothing orders would be put on hold until CCSS matter is resolved. She talked about the gardening committee idea of a calling tree or emails to remind members of gardening days. Reed said we might have sign-up sheets at meetings.

Treasurer Nancy Glover said she was prepared to collect dues which must be paid by March 1st for members not to be dropped from membership list.

After the break, John Moore presented a program on the history and application of binomial nomenclature, an organized way of naming plants devised by Carl Linnaeus in 1753. Linnaeus concentrated on flowers when identifying and classifying plants as different climates, soil, altitude and other environmental features can all affect a plant and make specimens look different except for the flower, which still appears the same. All countries and languages around the world use Latin and the English alpha-

bet, so names are universal. John handed out a guide to pronunciation and explained some of the vocabulary used in binomial nomenclature, and showed slides of various and beautiful cacti to illustrate his points.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted,
Susan Fuller
Secretary

Grant Request Approved

CCSS member Jim Weedin's request for financial support to travel to the Cibolo Creek Ranch (<http://www.cibolocreekranch.com/>) in Presidio County, Texas, has been approved by the CCSS Board of Directors. Jim plans to travel there in May, 2007 and have access to this vast ranch, unexplored for cacti and succulents. He is expecting to find, photograph and catalogue up to 50 kinds of cacti and succulents.

Jim will be assisting a researcher from the University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in collecting seeds for the seed bank at Kew Gardens in England. Kew is preserving seeds from ecosystems throughout the world. Any additional seeds he can acquire will be shared with our club members. He will provide one or more articles for the POI starting in July and deliver a presentation in Denver during the fall. Plans will be made to make the presentation available to the Chinle Chapter as well.

Chinle Mission Statement

Below is the proposed Mission Statement for the Chinle Chapter. Please direct comments or suggestions to the Chinle Board.

"The goal of the Chinle Chapter is to attract members to the chapter for the purpose of studying and disseminating information about the unique class of plants which includes succulents and cacti.

Communicating information about the historical evolution which has allowed these plants to develop amazing methods of water storage and self-protection, will hopefully, accomplish the further objective of creating awareness of the environments preferred by these fascinating plants and the need to protect their habitat."

Landscapes West

The 2007 Landscapes West Garden Show and Conference figures to attract horticulturists, landscape professionals and interested members of the public from around the area to Two Rivers Convention Center February 2-4.

Featured speakers this year include Edward F. Gilman, Ph.D., professor, University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department and author of "An Illustrated Guide to Pruning, 2nd Edition." Also on the roster of presenters will be Mary Irish, author of "Agaves, Yuccas, and Related Plants: A Gardener's Guide." The books of both presenters will be available for purchase.

Additional presentations will be made by Dr. Curtis Swift, CSU Extension; Kamie Long, Forester, Colorado State Forest Service; Dave Noe, Colorado Geological Survey; Yvette Henson, CSU Extension; Dr. Irene Shonle, CSU Extension; Tim McKay, regional sales manager for Nightscaping; Sheryl Williams, horticulture instructor, Delta-Montrose Technical College; CCSS Chinle Chapter member Charles Baker; and Betty Hall.

Sessions start at noon on Friday, February 2 and adjourn at noon on Sunday, February 4. The conference schedule and registration form are available at <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/index.html#main.html>. Admission is \$2. Participants get in free.

Chinle Chapter will operate a booth during the conference to present the club's activities to interested persons and recruit new members. To sign up to help attend the booth contact John Moore at 242-1936.

Chinle Feb. Program

The February meeting of the Chinle Chapter of CCSS will happen at 6:30 P.M. Thursday, the 11th, at the Community Room at Mesa Mall.

As of press time, the program for the meeting was set to be a discussion by members about Chinle's role. We will look back at our activities and projects since our inception and use those to springboard to determining what Chinle should be trying to do in the future.

Attendance is strongly urged.

What Shall Be Chinle Chapter's Role in the Future?

Chinle members will be asked at the February meeting to help guide the club into the future. The following is an overview of Chinle activities and projects in the past. Please read it and prepare comments and suggestions.

In support of the Mission Statement of the Chinle Chapter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society (page 2), the Chapter has been involved in the following activities:

—Participation the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale in Denver each year. This participation has resulted in members receiving awards for showing cacti and succulents, presenting programs/publicity to educate the public, and supporting the Denver club's money-making effort.

—Participation in Landscapes West in Grand Junction each year. This participation has resulted in the Chapter's obtaining several new members and has distributed information to the general public about cacti, succulents, and their contribution to xeric landscaping.

—Participation in Blooming Deals in Grand Junction each year. This participation has resulted in monetary support for the Chapter, disseminating information about cacti and succulents to the public, and support for the local Botanic Garden.

—Establishment and on-going care of cacti/succulent gardens at the CSU Extension office and the Botanic Gardens. These efforts are a very effective display of how attractive xeric landscaping can be. They also produce effective public relation benefits with the two organizations.

—The Chapter's monthly meetings are open to the public. They are consistently informative regarding some aspect of the care, habitat, naming, plant structure, or propagation of cacti and succulents. The meetings provide opportunities for members to share knowledge, and they include plant exchanges and a plant raffle which creates a "fun" atmosphere at the meetings.

—Field trips (single and multi-day) have given members' the benefit of providing educational visits to cacti in habitat while they receive information about the plants from an expert in the field. These field trips have also included visits to members' gardens where participants have been exposed to the many varieties of xeric landscaping that have been established by members of the Chapter.

—Provides a "rescue" service for succulent plants that need a new home. These "rescues" have allowed members to gain experience in transplanting and moving large specimens and have added several nice plants to the display gardens. The plants have also been sold to raise funds for the Chapter or have been adopted by members.

—Maintains a website in cooperation with the Colorado State University Extension office. That site provides information about the Chapter and its activities and provides information about various succulent species.

Several other Chapter activities have been attempted as events that may attract more members, participation, or interest. Most activities have had some success (Art Center participation, group purchases), but were deemed to be unworthy of the effort that was required or not to have produced the level of interest and participation that had been anticipated. The Chapter is now reaching a level of maturity where history can help predict what members will fully support and we must be careful not to add activities which will require consistent or intensive participation. Most one day or intermittent activities are quite popular, but on-going maintenance at the gardens has become problematic.

Irwins Go to Hawaii, See Cacti

Story and photo by Reed Irwin

Last winter while Bobbie was teaching weaving in Hawaii, I did some plant study. I followed a recommendation to go to the Foster Botanical Garden in downtown Honolulu, expecting to see lots of native plants. What I found on this 13.5 acre site after paying the \$5 admission fee was awesome. Not only does the garden contain many native plants but it also is home to many tropical plants from all parts of the world. The trees and other plants have been collected over a period of 140 years and many of them have reached enormous proportions. It is definitely worth spending a day or more exploring this site. However, that was only the beginning. Foster Botanical Garden is only one of five gardens owned and operated by the City of Honolulu and all the others have free admission. AND one of them is a cactus and succulent garden.

A little more than five miles east of Waikiki just past Koko Head is Koko Crater Botanical Garden. This garden,

established in 1985, covers 200 acres with a collection of succulent plants from around the world. Since Bobbie had a free day between classes we decided to explore this garden together. Compared to the well established Foster garden, Koko Crater is definitely a work in progress; there are essentially no visitor facilities, limited signs identifying plants and few trail markings. The floor of Koko Crater is only slightly above sea level but the crater rim rises steeply for several hundred feet on all sides except for a small opening on the NE. The high rim creates a rain shadow and a relatively arid environment for the garden. The trail leaving the parking lot provides no clue of what lies in the inner crater. After hiking for almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile past a riding stable, groves of bougainvilleas and plumerias we suspected we had been tricked into wasting a day. Then the trail forked and we spied our first cactus climbing up through the branches of a tree near the trail. Soon

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Bobbie Irwin and Friend in Hawaii



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Chinle Chapter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Mesa Mall. Guests are welcome.

Chinle Chapter Officers:

President: Reed Irwin

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Irwins Go to Hawaii, See Cacti

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we saw more cacti and a few side trails leading to many more large plants in the Americas portion of the garden. Large golden barrels, several types of Agave and many other large cacti became very common. Where the crater wall was visible we could see a wide variety of cacti extending toward the crater rim. Were they planning an escape and conquest of other parts of Oahu? Several different prickly pears, numerous cereeae and various epiphytic cacti appeared to be leading the charge toward the crater rim. Several of the low growing cereeae and some of the epiphytes were impressive plants with stems extending for tens of feet. Few plants were labeled but we recognized several relatives of our houseplants although here some are giants, ten or more feet tall. Conditions are also obviously good for establishing seedlings and many small plants peeked out from beneath shrubs. Plants include various opuntioideae, cereeae, Pereskias, agaves and several unfamiliar plants, their classification exceeding our knowledge.

The trail then went past a grove of Wiliwili trees and other Hawaii natives and on to plants of the old world. Madagascar was represented by various large Pachypodiums and other odd trees. Africa natives included Moringa, Baobab, Adenium, Albuca and many different Euphorbias. Almost all appear to have a serious steroid habit. A Euphorbia

trigona-like plant was more than 25 feet tall with an impressive trunk and arms spreading at least 10 feet in all directions. Leaving the Africa section we found areas planted with groupings of various dryland palms, Sansevierias and Aloes as the trail looped back toward the trail fork. Along the way we saw many other odd plants that are unfamiliar to us.

Several days could easily be spent exploring Koko Crater Botanical Garden. Taking along some good references or having a knowledgeable botanist as a guide would certainly add to the enjoyment. Much of the current management appears to be focused on removing invasive grasses and shrubs. However the invaders appear to be winning in many areas. At some point in the past an extensive irrigation system was installed which is now in disrepair with broken plastic pipe scattered around much of the area. Most succulents appeared to be doing quite well growing on the volcanic soil without any supplemental water. Even with the lack of facilities and signing this garden is worth visiting again. The next time we visit Hawaii, we also plan to check out other gardens in the system to see what surprises they contain. If the gardens would provide lodging it might be worth seeing if they are interested in having volunteers to help in the gardens, especially during the cold Colorado winter. For more information on the Honolulu botanical gardens go to www.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg. There really is more to Hawaii than surf, sun, golf and tans.

Visit CCSS Online
www.ccss-online.org

FEBRUARY REMINDERS
 ⇒ Front Range regular meeting: February 13 at 7:00 P.M. in the Waring House
 ⇒ Chinle regular meeting: February 8 at 6:30 P.M. Mesa Mall Community Room.
 ⇒ Submit information to scottpreusser@hotmail.com by February 15 for the March newsletter

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