



Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

2022 GUEST EDITOR:
SCOTT BURKHOLDER

Happy Valentine's Day!

MONTHLY PLANT SHOW

As we revive our monthly meetings, the MPS will return!

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& Garden Show](#)

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Science!](#)

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are Due!](#)

February 2022, Vol 26 No. 2

The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society promotes education, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulents among our members and the larger community.



Fenestraria rhopalophylla
(aka "Baby Toes") - Melissa Sinkus photo

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Sturm Family Auditorium (in person)
Zoom (on-line)

Speaker: "Kelly Grummons: Cactus Wrangler"

Details:

This will be a hybrid meeting, both at the Sturm Family Auditorium in the Freyer–Newman Center at the Denver Botanic Gardens on York Street **AND** on Zoom.

If you can, and are comfortable doing so, please join us at the Botanic Gardens. However, if you prefer the Zoom meeting, please join us online. Watch your email for the link!

SUCCULENT BITS

Colorado Home & Garden Show

We have been invited by Wild Ones Front Range to share a table at the Colorado Home & Garden Show, to promote native plants and the CCSS. Please try to volunteer for a shift at this show! Thanks!!

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

2022 CCSS Show and Sale -

This year's Show & Sale is April 23rd & 24th. We need to keep planning for success.

There's a lot to be done, and it's always later than you think!

Plus, start looking through your plants to pick those show ribbon winners!



Mammillaria plumosa
Scott Burkholder Photo

SEE YOUR NAME AND PICTURES IN PRINT!

Submissions for the next newsletter are due at the end of the month.

We need your articles and pictures! Do you have an interesting plant? How about an interesting plant story? That you would like to see in print? Send it to me at seisnoir@comcast.net.

Please send photos as either JPG or PNG files. As for stories and news, send those as DOC or RTF, or TXT files, please!

Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference will be this June!

June 9-12, 2022 in Kansas City
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, Independence, Missouri.
www.kccactus.com for details!

CSSA Biennial Meeting -

It hasn't been canceled, just delayed. The 2021 CSSA National Meeting has been postponed until 2023. So stay tuned for more information, and in the meantime attend those webinars! Contact Rod Haenni at rhaenni@comcast.net for the latest news.

FROM THE RATHER CHILLY RE-POTTING BENCH

News and Notes from and for February!

Club Dues – This is important! You need to be a member to get a discount at the Show and Sale, so don't forget and don't delay!

February's Meeting – Our presenter this month is Kelly Grummons. Panayoti has written up a nice little introduction for Kelly, and I would like to second it! I also shopped at Timberline Gardens, and also have a few of his opuntia hybrids scattered around the yard.

The Colorado Home and Garden Show – Courtney Cowgill has invited us to join in with the Wild Ones Front Range at their booth. This is great chance to promote not only our club, but also conservation in general. And this also gives us an opportunity to hand out Show Flyers and promote our Show and Sale in April.

We need volunteers for the booth. Later in this newsletter there's a page about the Home Show and a link so you can volunteer for a time slot!

2022 Show and Sale – The Show and Sale is quickly approaching! The list of committees is also later in the newsletter, and while we've had several members step up and volunteer, every one of these groups can use an extra set of hands.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone to look at their plants and start choosing the next show winner! Now is the time to pick out your show plants, select pots for them, and prepare this top dressing. And don't forget about packing boxes for them. We all know that springtime weather can be tricky in Colorado, so have those boxes and bags ready to go.

Jackson Burkholder - gives us another sample of his slide-making capabilities, this time showing the business end of a bull nettle. Ow!!

Last, I'd like to thank **Melissa Sinkus** for sending in this month's "cover plant" photo. I wish my Baby Toes looked that nice!

Thanks,

Scott Burkholder
Current President
seisnoir@comcast.net



--- FEBRUARY'S MEETING ---

OUR SPEAKER: KELLY GRUMMONS



Kelly Grummons
Kelly Grummons photo



If there's one regional horticulturist who needs NO introduction to CCSS, it's Kelly Grummons. He has belonged to CCSS for a very long time, and his plants are perennial best sellers at the Show and Sale.

Kelly was the manager who transformed Paulino Gardens (now alas, closed) from a fine local nursery to THE destination for perennials. He went on to co-found Timberline Gardens. I used to dread calling him there: whenever I'd visit I'd hear other staff and his co-owners constantly calling out "Kelly!! we need you", "Kelly!! Phone call!"

Timberline had a fantastic run as Denver's premier garden center: where you went to find the really cool stuff!

The hole it left has yet to be filled.

If I had to pick one horticulturist in Colorado who had it all--knowledge of plant culture, design, skills as a propagator, hybridizer and truly encyclopaedic knowledge of all things horticultural, I'd pick him.

'And he's a superb educator and speaker to boot.

Of course, Kelly knows trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, tropicals--you name it. How lucky we are that he has chosen to focus on cacti and succulents for his business "Cold Hardy Cactus"

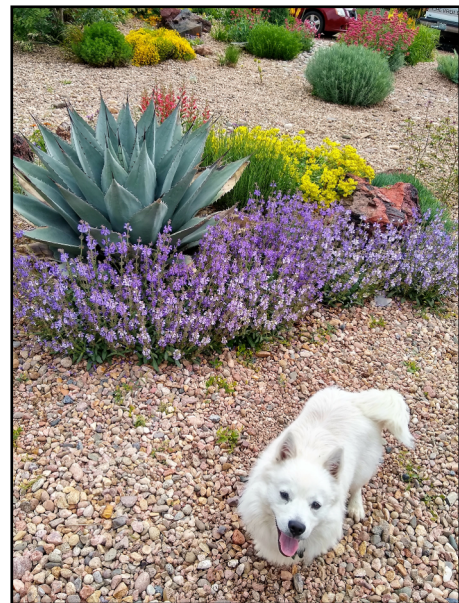
[\(https://coldhardycactus.com/\)](https://coldhardycactus.com/)

He will share some background on his work, particularly his popular "Walk in Beauty" hybrid Opuntias. And much much more.

You don't want to miss this!

- Panayoti Kelaidis

--- FEBRUARY'S PRESENTATION ---
KELLY GRUMMONS: CACTUS WRANGLER



Kelly Grummons photos

2022 CCSS SHOW AND SALE COMMITTEES

We are **less than three months** from this year's Show and Sale. That means it's time to get started and get going! One of our first tasks is to set up committees, and here's our list of tasks and projects:

Committee Descriptions:

Publicity: Publicize the S&S in social media, print and broadcast media, garden centers, and hobby groups.

Food truck: Book one or two food trucks for S&S attendees.

Food: Provide food for volunteers during the event.

Beer Flats: Find cardboard beer flats for attendees to carry their purchases.

Cash Register: Ring up sales and take payment for all purchases.

Electronics: Wire up cash registers, ticket scanners, and any other electronics.

Admission/tickets: Sell tickets and scan prepaid admission tickets.

Show: Arrangements and functioning of the show portion of the event

Security: Monitor exits to ensure no items leave without being purchased.

Classes/talks: Decide topics, recruit, and schedule speakers.

Plant Potting: Pot up purchased plants in purchased pots.

Storage Unit: Transport S&S equipment from the storage unit to Jeffco and return at the event's end.

See something you can do and would like to help? Contact me at seisnoir@comcast.net!



2021 CCSS Show and Sale Floor - Scott Burkholder Photo

COLORADO HOME & GARDEN SHOW

We have been invited to partner with Wild Ones Front Range (WOFR) for a booth at the Colorado Home and Garden Show. The plan is to increase our visibility in the metro area for both organizations and to promote our message of conservation. ((Plus, it's a get opportunity to advertise for the 2022 Show and Sale!)) If you are new to Wild Ones, here is the club's introduction from their website:

"Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization founded in 1979."

[Click here to check out the Wild Ones website!](#)

We need volunteers at the booth! Duties include greeting the public, promoting our clubs, and answering questions about cactus and succulents. We will have handouts and running slide shows to show examples and where to buy quality plants. We will run cactus and succulent pictures on monitors and use QR codes to let the public download the relevant handouts at their convenience. We need to have two people (one from each Club) at all times in the booth while the Show is open.

WHAT'S "IN IT" FOR THE VOLUNTEER?

1. You get a free pass into the Show. Volunteers can come early and tour the Show before their shifts begin or stay late and tour the Show after the end of their shift. More than 500 exhibitors and eight landscaped gardens (over one acre in total) are at this year's Show. The free pass saves \$10 to \$12 per day.
2. You will have the chance to talk to the region's best gardening gurus and home improvement experts at the Show at a time of your choice.
3. Staffing this booth for a shift is the fastest way for Native Plant Masters to meet the CSU requirement for educational contacts. You can earn a full year of educational contacts in a one-weekend shift.
4. You get to spread the word about CCSS, our mission, locations to see cactus in local parks and gardens, greenhouses, and vendors where quality and cold-hardy plants can be purchased and provide helpful education to people passionate about gardening. [Click here to volunteer on SignUp Genius website!](#)

The Colorado Home and Garden Show runs from February 12th through the 20th. Hours are from Noon to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Our booth is #100 in the northwest corner of the 2nd-floor convention hall. We would love to have you staff our booth and volunteer to help us with outreach to interested gardeners. And if you were wondering, all COVID protocols will be followed as suggested by the City and County of Denver.

Discounted parking is available at Empower Field/Mile Hi Stadium (Lot C) for \$5 per day. There are free shuttle buses that run continuously throughout each day, starting one hour before opening and ending one hour after closing. There is parking in an indoor lot immediately next door, but that will cost more, estimated at \$10 or more for all or part an entire day. Light Rail is also an option since the D and H lines stop at the Convention Center. The train from Arvada (B line) and Westminster (G line) stops at Union Station, and a free mall shuttle will take people to 16th and California Streets with a two-block walk to the Convention Center.

If you want to buy tickets for friends and family members, "2 tickets for the price of 1 admission ticket" is offered on weekdays. The coupon is attached to this note so you can print it and take to the Show box office to buy the 2-for-1 tickets.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the Home & Garden show for free and introduce the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter to more gardeners in the Front Range.

TEXAS BULL NETTLES: WHY DO THEY HATE US?

by Jackson Burkholder

Texas Bull Nettle (*Cnidoscolus texanus*) is a species feared across its native range of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and south/east Texas. Almost all of the above ground parts of the plants are covered in long hollow stinging hairs. When plants are brushed against or handled incorrectly, the tips of the hairs break off and the irritating fluid within the hair is introduced under the skin by its needle-like point.

Despite having the common name of Bull Nettle, these plants are actually in the Euphorbia family where they were first described as *Jatropha*. They are now known to be in their own genus which has been found to be the sister group to *Manihot* (Cassava). While it might be surprising to hear that such a painful plant is closely related to a common food source, the two genera actually share a number of characteristics. They both have large tuberous roots (it's a caudiciform!) and broad palmately compound leaves. There is even another species of *Cnidoscolus* (*C. aconitifolius*) whose leaves are commonly eaten in Southern Mexico, although they have to be cooked to destroy the stinging hairs and the toxins they contain.

In the micrograph below (Fig. 2) you can see a cross section of the stem with a focus on a single stinging hair. The hair is in oblique section which means that it is cut diagonally to the elongated axis. This is why it appears as an oval. The cell wall of the stinging cell is stained red meaning it's made of very hard material. In addition to the stinging hairs, the plants also have smaller, multicellular non-stinging hairs (Fig. 3).



Figure 1 – *C. texanus* growing in Bastrop State Park, Bastrop Co., TX. Note the prominent stinging hairs covering the plant.

TEXAS BULL NETTLES CON'T

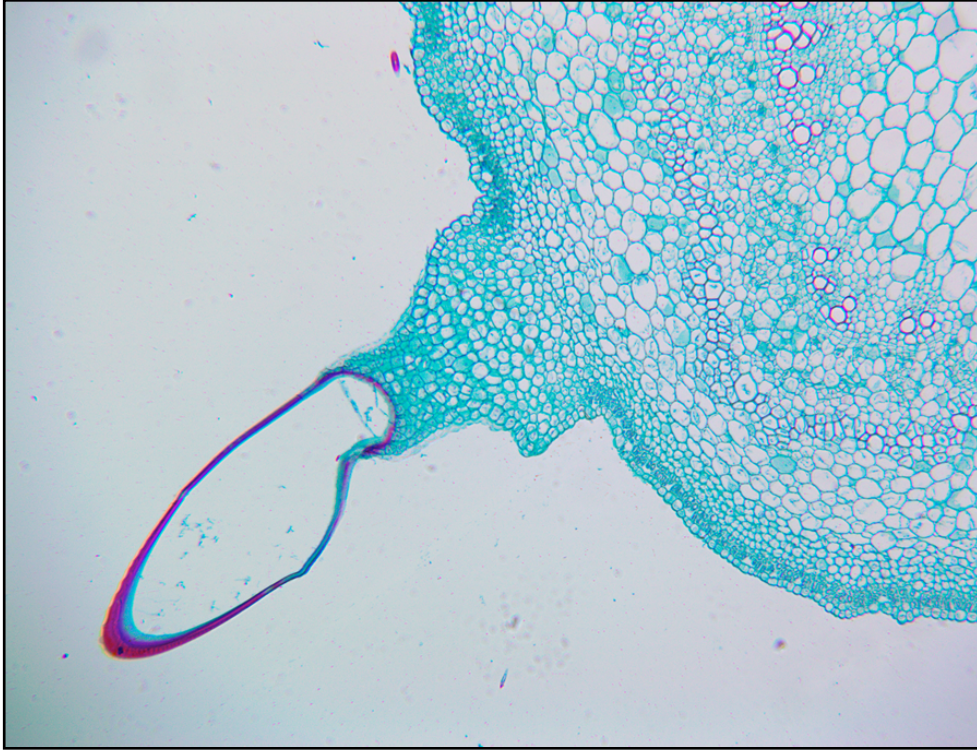


Figure 2 - Cross section of *C. texanus* stem showing a stinging hair in oblique section. The top of the hair is a single cell with a hard, glass-like cell wall that acts like a hypodermic needle filled with toxin.

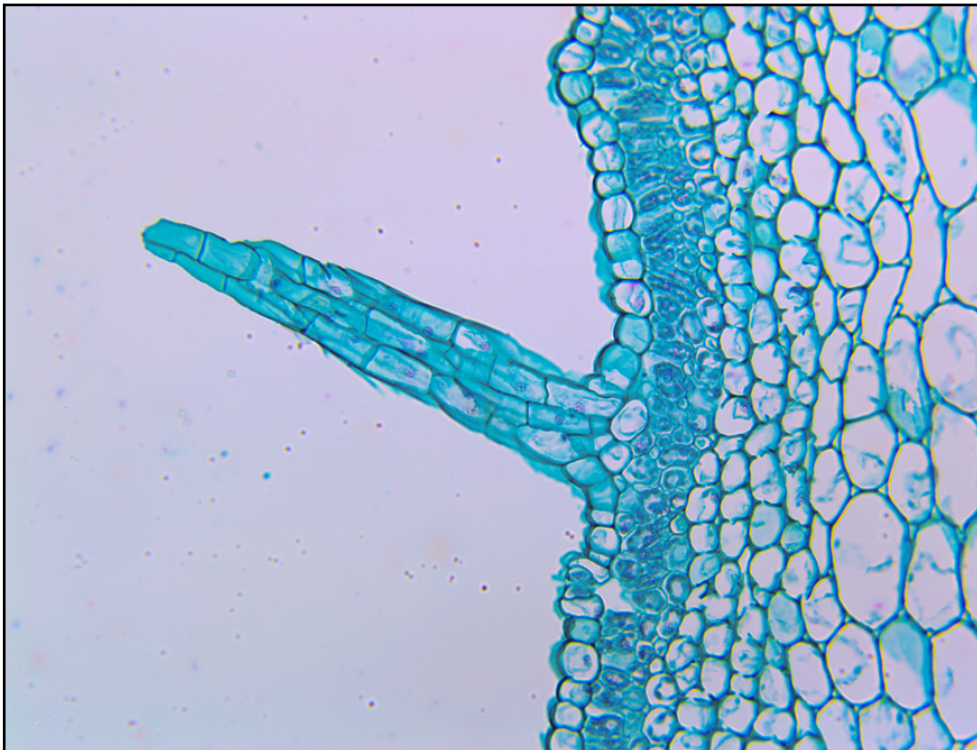


Figure 3 - A non-stinging hair.

2021 SHOW AND SALE VENDORS

We want to thank all the vendors from the Show and Sale!

Data Cactus Plants

Woody Minnich
cactusdata@msn.com

Front Range Gardens (Emerald Leaf)

Scott Jefferies & Larry Wyzgala
frontrangegardens.com

The Clay Center of Northern Colorado

Tim Preston
ClayCenterNC.com

Penny Woolsey

eyeferget@gmail.com

Ethical Desert

Donnie Barnett
ethicaldesert.com

Carol Wichern

Carolwichern@gmail.com

Blazing Star Greenhouse

Gary Davis
davis6605@esrta.com

Sills Alive

Jill Marble
sillsalive.colorado@gmail.com

All Its Own

William Haggerty
all-its-own.com

Precision Cactus Growers

Jackson Burkholder
PrecisionCactus@gmail.com

The Succulent Garden

Sam Hitt
sam@wildwatershed.org

Andrew Dolan

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Rocky Mountain Fresh

Kylee Hix
KyleeHix@outlook.com



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NEWSLETTER

Newsletter **(open)**

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Show and Sale (Co-Chair)
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MICHAEL ROLL

Conservation and Hiking;
MichaelJRoll@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

February 15 - CCSS Hybrid Meeting

March 15 - CCSS Hybrid Meeting

April 22 & 23 - CCSS 2022 Show and Sale

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:



<https://www.facebook.com/CoCSS>

<https://www.instagram.com/coloradocactus/>

<http://www.coloradocactus.org/>