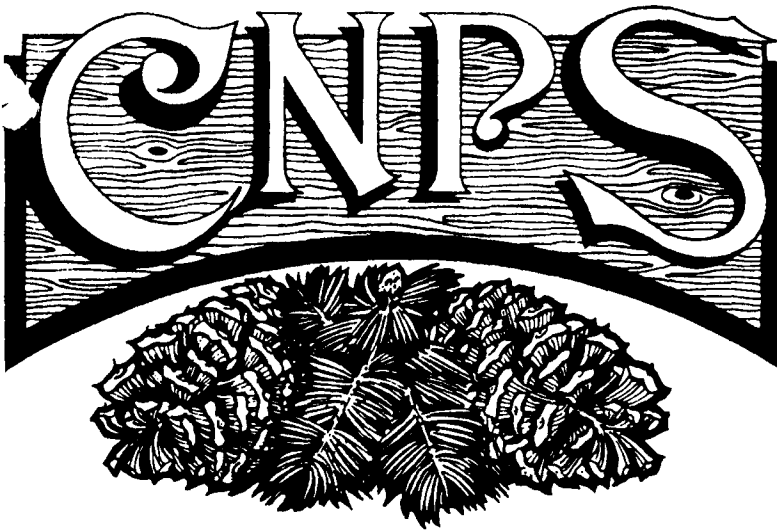


BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 6

November 1985

NEXT MEETING

December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall of the Big Pine Methodist Church at the corner of Crocker and School streets, Big Pine. Turn west from Hwy at the yellow light. It will be a joint meeting with the Audubon Chapter. A change in program will give us Tom Kucera as speaker. He will report his findings in a 2-year study of the Sherwin Grade deer migrators.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The last field trip of 1985 calls for pleasant reviewing of the year's trips. They took us as far as the cactus-studded Kingston Range in the far southeast corner of Inyo County and north to explore the open slopes of Masonic Mountain above its aspen groves in Mono County. We camped in the Joshua trees in the Argus Range and visited the petroglyphs in the Cosos, traveled through the alpine openness of the White Mountains, walked the pine and flower-bordered trails of the Sierra's Bishop Creek, found new things in Silver Canyon, explored the scree slopes and hemlock nooks in the Virginia Lakes basin, did some fall botanizing in Onion Valley, and became acquainted with the Tamarix-plagued expanses of our Owens Valley.

Gratitude goes to all our knowledgeable field trip leaders of the year, Peter Rowlands, Mark Bagley, Tim Messick, Mary and Paul DeDecker, Pat and Jack Crowther, and Vince Yoder.

May you finish the year with days of contentment!

.....Doris Fredendall

* * * * *

TRIP REPORTS

ROCK CREEK.

The field trip to Rock Creek on October 12 to see fall color was not a disappointment even though the aspen trees were bare. (Three snows and low temperatures left only the willows to brighten stream edges and high canyons.) Trip leader Mark Bagley, having checked the canyon the day before, easily changed focus from bright aspen colors to needle-green and bark-brown. Starting at Rock Creek Lodge at 9500 feet, gradually working down canyon, Mark drew our attention to the changing patterns of soil, trees, and ground covers at different elevations, exposures and/or degree of moisture. We looked at winter tree buds, and cut open rose hips and apples to compare those members of the Rose Family. We noted the small population of ponderosa pine on lower Rock Creek as compared to the usual Jeffrey pine

in the area. The group disbanded at a high overlook atop old Sherwin Grade where we gazed into the high Buttermilk Country dreaming in the Indian summer light of mid-afternoon.

This was our last field trip of the year. Plans are already under way to schedule some new and interesting experiences for 1986. You are invited to come and join us.

* * * * *

LEGISLATION

Growing concern over the threat of hydropower developments on small streams is resulting in some action. Governor Deukmejian has signed into law AB 951 by Assemblyman Bill Jones (R-Madera). This bill establishes state policy that subsidized small hydroelectric projects should be placed on existing dams, rather than building new dams and diversions on our streams. Although this may have little application in Inyo-Mono, it indicates the state's concern over the threat to California's streams. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been flooded with applications by developers since the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act was passed in 1978. This act requires utilities to buy power generated by developments on streams at very high rates. It has created a situation in which private developers see dollars waiting to be taken from every mountain stream, while those who value the aesthetic, recreational and biological qualities react in horror. The ultimate solution must be a change in the federal law. Write to your senators and congressmen!

The governor also signed SB 1165 carried by Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) which restricts the use of the License Plate Fund to environmental purposes, such as conservation education, habitat protection, and air pollution research. This corrects a situation in which the funds were being used for non-environmental purposes. This shows that the governor can be persuaded by reason. He vetoed a similar bill last year.

He did not do so well on low flush toilets though. He vetoed AB 1276 by Assemblyman Hannigan (D-Fairfield) to support the original law which requires that all toilets sold in California use no more than 3.5 gallons per flush. Who profits from high flush toilets?

A measure of credit goes to members of the Bristlecone Chapter who keep aware of legislation, good and bad, and write to their legislators to urge the right vote. We know that it does make a difference. The same goes for local issues. The more who make an effort toward in-depth analysis, the more representative our government will be. The better our analysis, including long range considerations, the higher the quality of life, that is all life including native plants. This is only if we give frequent input though, where it counts. Responsible citizens may bring about responsible decisions, or at least temper the irresponsible actions of our governing bodies.

* * * * *

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

.....Chief Seattle (1854)

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to each of you. We hope you can share in some of our activities.

Mary Dana Baker
131 Avenida Drive
Berkeley, CA 94708

Mrs. E. Jane Bright
P.O. Drawer V
Independence, CA 93526

Dr. Patricia E. Brown
658 Sonja Court
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Mary Beth Cook
814 W. Ocean Front
Balboa, CA 92661

Desert Survivors
42 Michael Lane
Orinda, CA 94563

Mr. & Mrs. Fred K. Ebert
2730 Audrey Lane
Bishop, CA 93514

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fair
P.O. Box 94
Independence, CA 93526

Bonnie C. Fulton
2322 36th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116

Joe Profita
210 Chestnut, Box 663
Big Pine, CA 93513

James Racin
5345 McMillan Drive
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

John Schelhas
P.O. Box 127
Yosemite, CA 95389

Genny Smith (Transfer)
1304 Pitman Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Hans Van der Noordaa
186 C South 1st Street
Bishop, CA 93514

M. J. Williams
3278 Knowland
Oakland, CA 94619

WILDFIRE

A lightning caused fire on July 6 west of Independence was whipped out of control by strong winds until it burned about 8000 acres. Most of the fire fighters were fighting disastrous fires elsewhere in the state. Although the blaze was thought to be under control that night, it flared up again the next day, and was driven northward by a strong wind. The cabins at Seven Pines and campgrounds along Independence Creek were evacuated, while a desperate effort was made to save the area. Suddenly the wind changed and the fire raced toward Independence. The dry brush was fairly explosive. The order was given to forget Seven Pines and save the town. Communities from Olancho to Mammoth sent equipment to help. It was a comfort to see them attached to fire hydrants along the west edge of town. Residents spent the evening on the street, uneasily watching the towering flames. It seemed that nothing could stop them. Finally, bulldozers came to cut swaths through the brush above town. When the blaze was within about two miles, the wind abruptly stopped. The town was safe and so was Seven Pines!

Most of the burn was on BLM land, approximately 4370 acres of it in Wilderness Study Areas. Some Forest Service land was burned, but little reached into the canyons. BLM's Symmes Creek Campground was destroyed, and the fire encircled the parking area at the roadhead for the Shepherd Pass trail. Both agencies are to be commended for their efforts to control the fire and for taking measures since to protect the barren land. Revegetation will take time but a surprising amount of growth is showing up. It provides an excellent opportunity for recovery study. The charred black oaks and the disjunct population of wild lilac are crown sprouting, as are some of the smaller shrubs. A few perennials grew and produced seeds during the summer. A pictorial record is being kept.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is an organization of lay persons and professionals united by an interest in the plants of California. It is open to all. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Varied interests are represented.

Name _____ P.O. or Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Membership Category:

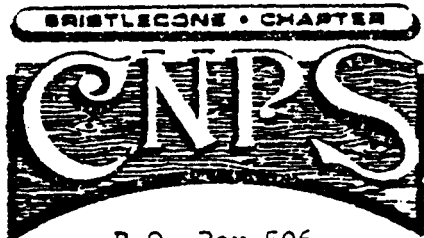
_____ Life, Couple	\$500	I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter _____
_____ Life, Individual	450	
_____ Supporting	50	Other _____
_____ Household	30	Please make check payable to: California Native Plant Society
_____ Individual or Library	18	
_____ Student or Retired	12	
_____ Retired Couple	15	

Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS
P.O. Box 506
Independence, CA 93526

GIFT contribution: Where most
needed _____ Conservation _____

The BRISTLECONE NEWSLETTER comes out bimonthly. It is mailed free to members of the Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS. The subscription is \$5.00 per year for others.
Editor: Mary DeDecker.

California Native Plant Society



P.O. Box 506
140 West Pavilion Street
Independence, CA 93526

