

Vol. 5, No. 5

September 1986

NEXT MEETING

The November meeting will be postponed due to the Thanksgiving holiday until December 3. Speaker will be George Monesko, President of Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee. It will be a joint meeting with Audubon. Time and place to be announced by the news media.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This has been a busy summer. Now that fall is here and regular meetings are starting we can settle down to an interesting and varied plant year. There are still some field trips scheduled for the higher elevations. Mark has worked hard on these, so let's try to show up.

Vince and I went to the CNPS Board Meeting in Quincy. Their field trip was to Butterfly Valley. This was a fantastic setting of hanging bogs and wet meadows. The plants were beautiful. The area is endangered because of plans for clear-cutting by loggers around it. This could destroy the boggy conditions. I will show you my slides at a later date.

I want to take this time to welcome all you wonderful new members. I had intended to write you letters. However, we have been out of town for a month at a time, three times since March. We sold a house, bought a house, and moved. Believe me you are welcome. Come to the meetings so we can get to know you.

. Ann Yoder

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LAST FIELD TRIP OF THE SEASON

October 11: Conway Summit and Virginia Creek, north of Mono Lake. Leader: Mark Bagley. This is considered one of the most spectacular areas for viewing fall colors in the Sierra. It is hoped that our timing will be right to see the aspen at the peak of their fall display. We will also look at fall-flowering shrubs in the Sagebrush Scrub and at plants of riparian habitats.

Meet at the Conway Summit pullout on Highway 395 at 9:30 a.m. East walking at about 8000-9000 feet in elevation. Take a lunch, liquids, and warm caps and jackets.

Our thanks are extended to Vince Yoder and Jim Morefield for leading our successful July and August trips.

Field trips will be resumed in the spring. We welcome suggestions, and we could use more leaders. It is not necessary to be an authority on an area to lead an excellent trip. One can count on lots of help. Much appreciation too!

THE SUNBONNET LANGLOISIAS

The charming little Langloisias which have irregular corollas patterned with darker lines have long fascinated desert visitors. Their three broader lobes flare upward like the brim of a sunbonnet while the narrower lobes resemble the ties, hence the name, "Sunbonnets".

Steven Timbrook of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, who has been giving them serious attention for some time, now has determined that they belong in a separate genus. Therefore *Langloisia matthewsii* and *Langloisia schottii* are now to be known as species of *Loeseliastrum*. He also reduces *Langloisia punctata* to a subspecies of *Langloisia setosissima*. A simplified key is as follows:

- A. Corollas regular; capsules triangular in cross section; upper leaves and bracts with some multiple bristles; pollen white to blue.....*Langloisia*
- B. Corolla lobes 1/3 to 1/2 the length of the tube, unmarked to streaked with purple, but seldom dotted; filaments less than 3 mm long.....
.....*Langloisia setosissima* ssp. *setosissima*
- B. Corolla lobes 1/2 to nearly the length of the tube, dotted with purple; filaments more than 3 mm long.....*Langloisia setosissima* ssp. *punctata*
- A. Corollas irregular; capsules 3-lobed in cross section; bristles of leaves and bracts all simple; pollen yellow.....*Loeseliastrum*
- C. Corolla 11 to 21 mm long, the upper lip 3/4 to 1½ times the length of the tube; longest filaments equal to upper lip of corolla; calyx (excluding bristles) 1/2 to 3/4 the length of the corolla tube.....
.....*Loeseliastrum matthewsii*
- C. Corolla 8 to 15 mm long, upper lip 1/2 to 3/4 times (rarely equal) the length of the tube; longest filaments shorter than upper lip of corolla; calyx 3/4 to nearly equal the length of the corolla tube.....
.....*Loeseliastrum schottii*

These plants are small annuals, often merely tufts, broader than high. They thrive on dry, sandy or gravelly soils under very arid conditions. All are common in the Inyo Region and may be abundant on favorable years.

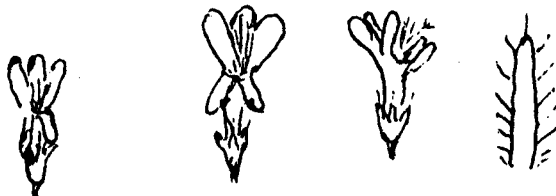
The flowers of *Loeseliastrum matthewsii*, sunbonnets, are usually pink or lilac, but are occasionally white or yellow. Those of *La. schottii*, little sunbonnets, are mostly dull yellow, but they too may vary.

Loeseliastrum matthewsii was first collected in Independence, Inyo County, California, by Dr. Washington Mathews of the U.S. Army. He came to Camp Independence from his duties at Alcatraz, arriving about the middle of May, 1876. The people liked him because of his interest in the country, its geology, and its plant and animal life. The plant was named by Asa Gray, well known American botanist, and was published in 1880.

Loeseliastrum schottii was first collected on the Colorado Desert, Sonora, by Arthur Schott, a naturalist on the Mexican Boundary Survey. It was named by John Torrey who described plants from many of the early expeditions, and it was published in 1859.

The names of both have been changed from time to time as botanists have worked on the large and complex Phlox Family (Polemoniaceae).

This latest work by Steven Timbrook is published in *Madroño*, Vol. 33, No. 3. July 1986. He and his associates at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden have made frequent trips to the Inyo Region. We have appreciated their supportive friendship.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

July 19: Whitney Portal, Sierra Nevada.

Whitney Portal is familiar ground to most of us, but it is still a favorite place. Field trip leader, Vince Yoder, led us up the present Whitney trail as far as the stream crossing, then turned back to the starting point to go up the much steeper but more interesting old route. Between the two we saw a variety of habitats, from dry, loose slopes or rocky crevices to boggy flower gardens. Some had not previously seen Parish tauschia, *Tauschia parishii*, which we found on dry slopes. We discussed the difference between that and prickly parsley, *Lomatium rigidum*. The leaves are so similar that they are easily confused when there is no mature fruit to identify them. Fresh leaves of *Tauschia* are shining green, however, while those of *Lomatium rigidum* are slightly duller. Most of the other dry slope plants were easily recognized by the group. The boggy places yielded more blooms. Among them were common monkey-flower, *Mimulus guttatus*, scarlet mimulus, *Mimulus cardinalis*, Bigelow sneezeweed, *Helenium bigelovii*, tall willow larkspur, *Delphinium polycladon*, monkshood, *Aconitum columbianum*, Fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium*, and several of the small, dainty Epilobiums, grass-of-Parnassus, *Parnassia palustris* var. *californica*, and the orchids, *Platanthera sparsiflora* (*Habenaria sparsiflora*) and *Platanthera dilatata* (*Habenaria dilatata*). We were delighted to find a few ferns, the common bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*, bird's-foot fern, *Pellaea mucronata* var. *californica*, lady fern, *Athyrium felix-femina* var. *cyclosum*, and brittle fern, *Cystopteris fragilis*. At the highest point that we reached we dug into the mossy banks and found minute plants of blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia parviflora*, pink mimulus, *Mimulus breweri*, and toad lily, *Montia chamissoi*.

For a lunch spot Vince had arranged for a convenient place under large Jeffrey pine trees. It was so pleasantly cool that we were reluctant to leave.

August 21: Crooked Creek, White Mountains.

Accompanied by beautiful, clear weather, Jim Morefield led about a dozen chapter members and guests on an interesting walk in the White Mountains. After a brief morning stop at the Schulman Grove, we went to the research station on the North Fork of Crooked Creek and went down a couple of miles to begin our walk.

This part of the canyon has a narrow meadow on either side of the creek. The south-facing slopes above the creek are sagebrush scrub and the north-facing slopes an open bristlecone and limberpine forest. Interspersed on the slopes are rocky outcrops of dolomite or limestone. These harbor bristlecone pine, *Pinus longaeva*, rock spiraea, *Petrophytum caespitosum*, King sandwort, *Arenaria aculeata* (*Arenaria kingii*), and other interesting species.

Due to recent cattle grazing and the late season, few meadow plants remained in bloom. We did a little better at finding flowers on the slopes, mostly Asteraceae. Quite a few species were noted at the different habitat types, many in fruit. Jim is compiling a list of species which may come out in another newsletter.

The
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
proudly presents

R A R E & E N D A N G E R E D P L A N T S

A California Conference on their Conservation & Management



The CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS), in conjunction with government agencies, conservation groups and private corporations, is sponsoring a conference on the conservation and management of rare and endangered plants.

The conference will be held at the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn, 300 J Street, Sacramento, California, U.S.A.

The program will consist of concurrent sessions, poster sessions and workshops. Proceedings will be published by CNPS.

N O V E M B E R 5 - N O V E M B E R 8



The above announces an outstanding conference coming up in November. It is one that should not be missed. Keynote speakers will represent a wide spectrum of interests. The program will cover so many timely topics that one can expect a rewarding experience. Unfortunately, there are serious conflicts on dates for people devoted to the desert.

ANOTHER SYMPOSIUM

Another conference which will focus on that part of California in Inyo-Mono east of the Sierra Nevada is being planned for May 1987.

Dr. C. A. Hall, Director of the White Mountain Research Station, is laying plans for a Mary DeDecker Symposium to be held May 1-3, 1987. This will be the second of the biennial symposiums conducted by the Research Station. It will pertain to plant-related subjects. The announcement will go out soon, with a call for papers. Tentative plans call for presentation of papers on Friday and Sunday at the White Mountain Research facilities east of Bishop. A field trip is planned for Saturday to the Eureka Dunes and Dedeckera Canyon, to be concluded by a cookout at the dunes. Dr. Hall has invited the California Native Plant Society and its Bristlecone Chapter to participate in the planning. Besides the opportunity to share knowledge of this rich botanical region, it will provide a rich desert experience.

The Eureka Dunes, nearly 700 feet high, have been designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the Bureau of Land Management and are now protected from ORV activity. In 1983 they were made a National Natural Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. Three endemic plants occur there, two of them federally listed.

Perhaps the Natural History of the White-Inyo Range, a publication by the White Mountain Research Station, will be available by May.

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NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome two new members this time:

Alice Greenwald
P.O. Box 551
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Elizabeth P. Maciolek
P.O. Box 7117
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

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RARE PLANT REPORT:

It will be of interest to our members to know that *Astragalus monoensis* has been discovered on the summit of Glass Mountain at an elevation of 11,000 feet. This has been reported by Vernal L. Yadon, Director of the Museum of Natural History, Pacific Grove. It is a surprising extension of range for a rare plant supposedly restricted to a few pumice flats below 8000 feet. But Glass Mountain has pumice, and the species is well adapted to severe weather.

The first collection was made by Frank W. Peirson in June, 1925, but it was not described until John Thomas Howell collected it in August, 1938. Rupert Barneby published it in Leaflets of Western Botany 4:55 in 1944. In describing the collection Mr. Howell said it was a lovely day and they stopped to eat lunch in a fine grove of pine trees. Then they wandered across the highway to see what might grow on the relatively barren pumice flat. There was this small *Astragalus*.

BOOK REVIEW

In his fourth edition of *Deserts on the March* Paul B. Sears writes with remarkable understanding of man, the "master" species, and his relationship to his environment. Every chapter is a fascinating discussion of man and his behavior on this earth. Nearly every paragraph is worth quoting. Although Sears points out our hideous blunders, he tells what we have learned throughout history, and he offers the way to responsible stewardship, if only we will act in time.

In his preface to the fourth edition he speaks of the following:

The next Hundred Years, by Harrison Brown, James B. Bonner, and John Weir, for the acknowledgements by distinguished scientists that the more elaborate a system of technology, the more vulnerable it is to the slightest failure; and that throughout history the most viable form of human culture has been the simple agrarian.

From the High Plains, by John Fischer, for its vivid account of the sequence of exploitation in semi-arid North America--mining for flint by Indians and (far more serious) depletion by white men of buffalo, grass, soil, oil, and finally, water.

The superbly-written report to the United Nations, *Only One Earth*, by Barbara Ward and Rene DuBose, not only for its content but also for recognizing that our hope for survival in all our prized diversity rests upon our ability to achieve an ultimate loyalty to "our single beautiful, and vulnerable Earth".

The book provides so much food for thought that it is excellent reading for any responsible American.

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The above brings to mind the reduction in staffing brought about by budget cuts in governmental agencies. The first to go are cultural and environmental categories, including protection of resources. In our region east of the Sierra, where federal agencies manage vast areas of public lands, it is alarming to see the removal of most of the protective positions. That jeopardizes sensitive and intelligent long-range planning, as well as the ability to handle current problems. What manager can afford a botanist on the staff? Certainly not to waste time in his field of expertise.

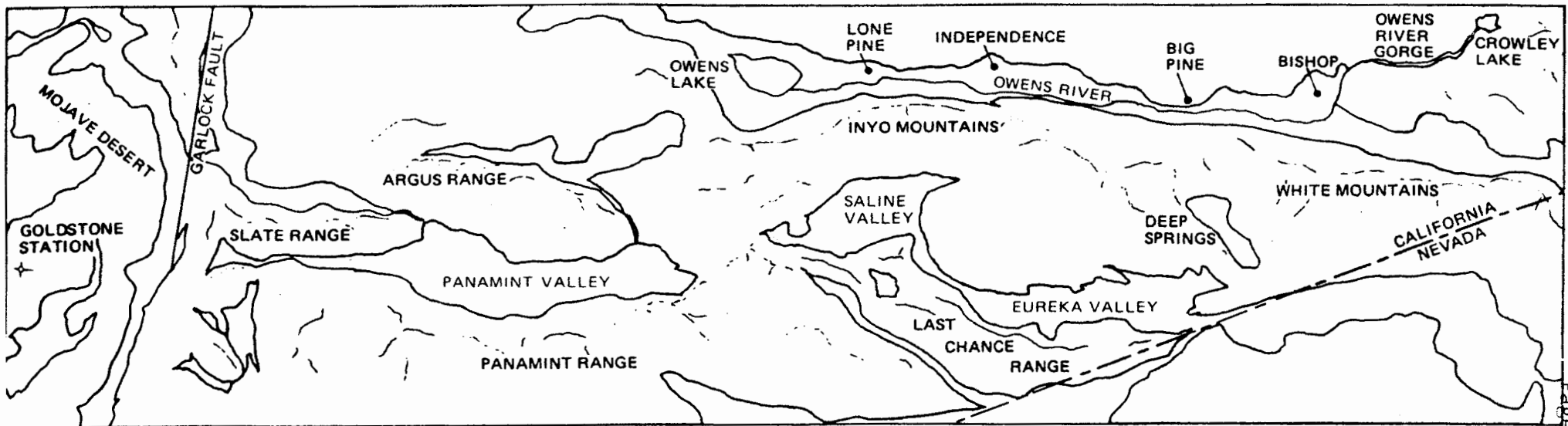
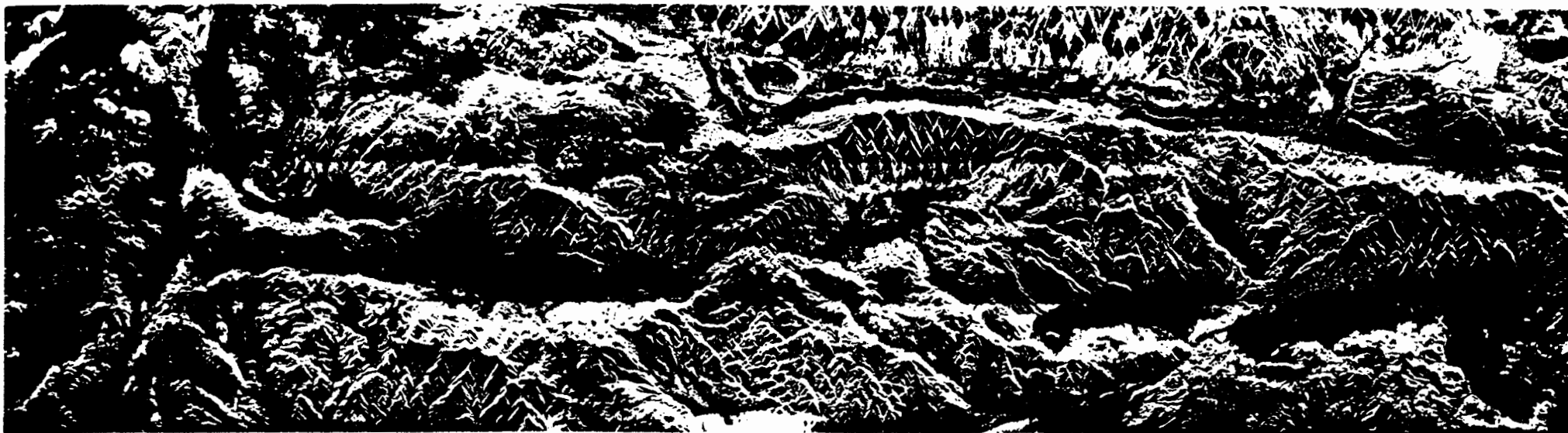
It is up to us, the voters, to do something about it. Do we pin our candidates down as to priorities? Do we insist on better stewardship of public lands? Clear directions from an insistent public can make a difference. We must reach those at the top who dictate policies.

..... Mary DeDecker

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We who are familiar with the basins and ranges of Eastern California will enjoy comparing the SEASAT view with the basin outline of the same scene on the following page.

RADAR VIEW OF EASTERN CALIFORNIA BY SEASAT



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 _____

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Membership Category:

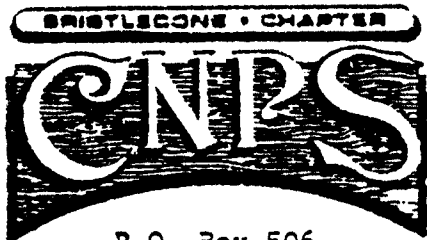
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_____ Supporting	50	Other _____
_____ Household	30	
_____ Individual or Library	18	Please make check payable to:
_____ Student or Retired	12	California Native Plant Society
_____ Retired Couple	15	Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS

GIFT contribution: Where most
needed _____ Conservation _____

P.O. Box 506
Independence, CA 93526

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



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