

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 25, at the Big Pine Methodist Church Social Hall, corner of Crocker and North School Street (Turn at the caution light on Hwy 395.) This will be our first potluck supper for the year; serving will start at 6:30 p.m. Bring hot dish, salad or dessert to serve 6 or 8 and your own TABLE SERVICE.

Ken Berg, CNPS botanist, will follow the business meeting with a slide presentation of "California's Endangered Flora and the CNPS Rare Plant Program, surveying the State's rare plants and highlighting some of those in this area. Ken works closely with the State Department of Fish and Game to assist in the assessment and management of rare species.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

In a repeat of the Tamarisk dig two workers in four hours dug 140 plants from the west base of the Eureka Dunes. Many were small sprouts from Tamarisk that had been cut off near the ground. Larger plants were dug far out on the playa. It was gratifying to find that no new growth was found in the area of the February dig.

The "Independence Burn" of July 6, 1985, has been putting on an outstanding display for weeks, both of annuals and perennials. The great sweeps of soft yellow scale bud, *Anisocoma acaulis*, on the slopes could not be missed nor the 30 acres or so of Kerr lupine, *Lupinus magnificus* var. *glarecola*, which were just that, magnificent! We are happy that so many of the shrubs are making a good comeback by crown sprouting. (See the plant list on pages 4 to 8.)

. . . . . Doris Fredendall

GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS

Department of parks and recreation. Resource Protection Division,  
P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Brian Miller, 2707 Carol Lane, Bishop, CA 93514

Sara J. Manning, c/o White Mountain Research Station, 3000 E. Line  
Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Av. & Kathleen Pratt, 8049 Bull Run, Inyokern, CA 93527

Denyse Racine, 286 Sneden Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Julie Stromberg, 1031 W. Cornell, Tempe, AZ 85283

## BRISTLECONE CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS – SUMMER SCHEDULE

**JUNE 4.** MAZOURKA CANYON, INYO MOUNTAINS. Leaders: Evelyn Mae & Al Nikolaus. Meet at 9:00 am, at the rock service station just south of Independence, on the corner of Mazourka Road and U.S. 395.

**JUNE 18-19.** 4-WD VEHICLE TRIP IN THE INYO MOUNTAINS. Leaders: Mary and Paul DeDecker. Difficult driving and easy walking trip, entering the Inyo Mountains from Big Pine and returning via Independence. Dry camp Saturday night at Papoose Flat. Meet at 9:00 am in Big Pine at the Triangle Campground, junction of U.S. 395 and Hwy 168. High clearance 4-wd vehicles are absolutely necessary. If planning to participate please contact the leaders at 878-2389.

**JULY 9.** LITTLE ONION VALLEY TRAIL, SIERRA NEVADA WEST OF INDEPENDENCE. Leader: Vince Yoder. Moderate to easy walk along road and trail to Little Onion Valley. Start at about 6500 feet elevation, to about 8000 feet if we make it to the valley. Meet at 9:30 am at the northwest corner of Highway 395 and Market Street, across the street from the Independence Post Office.

**AUGUST 13-14.** ROCK CREEK BASIN, SIERRA NEVADA BETWEEN BISHOP AND MAMMOTH. Leader: Mark Bagley. **Joint trip with the Channel Islands CNPS Chapter.** See the subalpine and alpine flowers on Saturday. Sunday we'll look at the riparian habitats as they change with elevation down the creek. Trip will end by noon on Sunday. Of course you can make it a day trip if you wish. Meet Saturday morning at 9:00, just east of Tom's Place on Rock Creek Road near Highway 395.

NOTE. Day trips last most of the day while overnight trips conclude early Sunday afternoon. Bring a lunch and drinks on a day trip, be prepared to carry your lunch on a hike. Bring plenty of water or other thirst quenching beverages, a hat, dark glasses, sunscreen, and sturdy walking shoes. Family, friends, visitors, and members from other chapters are welcome to come along, but please no pets. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine on our trips. Trips will LEAVE at the time announced, so please arrive a few minutes early. For more information, contact Mark Bagley, field trip chairman, at 873-5326.

### FIELD TRIP - SHORT CANYON.

Washed by Thursday and Friday rains, our Inyo-Mono-Kern counties were damply fresh as 19 Bristlecone Chapter members and friends met at "Brady's" on Saturday, April 16. (Highway 395 near its junction with Highway 14.) Within 15 minutes trip leaders Mary Ann and Ron Henry had the caravan moving up the few miles toward Short Canyon. A stop above a sandy bank and wide wash showed an amazing expanse of Hole in the sand (*Nicolletia occidentalis*) just coming into bloom.

From the road-end the trail climbed abruptly up the hill of drying coreopsis to a little crest. Quickly we had left the desert behind and entered a wide half-bowl gently sloping upward toward white granite peaks. Rock mimulus (*Mimulus longiflorus*) spilled from cracks in the rock outcroppings that sheltered robust plants of (*Dudleya calycicola*) limestone live-forever, while Hansen's larkspur (*Delphinium hansenii*) grew on the grassy edges of small moist channels. The year-round stream was often hidden by wild grapevines and willows. Small meadows alternated with gravelly flats where Mojave parsley (*Lomatium mohavense*) had pushed through the ground. Beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris*) blooms were still damp from the night's rain.

The dark mass of oak trees (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and taller digger pines (*Pinus sabiniana*) drew us upward until the lure of two distnat towering stalks of *Nolina parryi* changed our course for closer inspection of blooms and seeds.

Returning to the canyon bottom on a south-facing slope of loose soil, a few very small plants of Charlotte's phacelia (*Phacelia nashiana*) were found. Short Canyon supports other special plants in its 277 species of 51 families. We saw a goodly number of them under the enthusiastic leadership of the Henrys.

Our night camp was far off-pavement in the Joshua trees of Walker Pass. A small campfire in a pit tried to push back the windy chill during a short talk on Short Canyon and the Pacific Crest Trail. We were to have walked a portion of the trail in the morning but the blustery wind and threatening dark clouds changed our plans. So we settled for a short drive and walk to a hilltop where our guides had earlier spotted a few diminutive plants of pigmy poppy (*Carbaya candida*) only one inch high. After lying on our bellies to see that special plant, we said our farewells and parted company.

..... Doris Fredendall

Note:

Short Canyon has recently been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the Bureau of Land Management. This recognizes the special botanical values there and means that it is to be given appropriate protection, along with interpretive efforts. The program is already under way. Mary Ann Henry is to be given credit for proposing the ACEC designation.

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Editor's note: It is not often that we receive letters to the editor, although we welcome comments. Personally, we agree with the philosophy expressed in the following letter. Perhaps we should try harder to hasten the day when the decision makers will accept it. Political reality tells us that day will be long in coming.

Dear Editor:

I hope readers will pardon a brief comment on the recent excerpt of David Diaz's article (*Bristlecone Newsletter* 7(2), March 1988). It reminded me of a problem with the conservation movement that has irritated me for some time. The article was typical of hundreds that appear every year and pursue two basic themes: save living diversity because of either 1) a few species striking to humans, like Whales or Eagles or the Panda (always mammals or birds!), or 2) anti-cancer drugs, disease-resistant crop genes, or other humanly-useful substances awaiting discovery (and always ignoring the connection between modern medicine and agriculture and human overpopulation). In other words, conserve because purely human interests are at stake if we don't.

Though I recognize the practical need for such selfish, "utilitarian" arguments when dealing with otherwise insensitive politicians, I am left with a bad taste in my mouth. While those reasons are true enough, we are unconsciously supporting a corollary argument - that anything not of human interest is therefore not worth the effort to save from ourselves. Then we put ourselves right back where conservation became necessary in the first place!

Just as we think ourselves more than mere critical habitat for *Candida albicans*, we need more than ever to learn, and teach others, to grant that same self-importance to all species - at least to give them the benefit of the doubt. David Gaines said it best in one of his last Mono Lake

newsletters (I paraphrase from memory): " We must preserve living things not because they are useful or beautiful, but because we are kin." In my opinion, one key politic-utilitarian argument, and we need more articles that stress the former rather than the latter. And well said, brother Gaines, wherever you be.

.....Jim Morefield

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### CHECK LIST FOR THE INDEPENDENCE BURN OF JULY 6, 1985

Before this 8000 acre burn this was Sagebrush Scrub with an island of oak trees on a fault line , a seepage area below that, and stream courses running through. Shrubs marked \* are crown-sprouting.

#### **APIACEAE.** Parsley or Carrot Family.

<i>Angelica lineariloba</i>	Tall angelica
<i>Lernaeum nevadense</i>	Nevada parsley
<i>Tauschia parishii</i>	Parish Tauschia

#### **APOCYNACEAE.** Milkweed Family.

<i>Apocynum sibericum</i> var. <i>salignum</i>	Tall hemp
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#### **ASTERACEAE.** Sunflower Family.

<i>Anisocoma acaulis</i>	Scale bud
<i>Antheropeas wallacei</i>	Easter bonnets
Syn= <i>Eriophyllum wallacei</i>	
<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	Tarragon
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Mugwort
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush
<i>Chaenactis fremontii</i>	Fremont pincushion
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rabbitbrush
<i>Chrysothamnus teretifolius</i>	Green rabbitbrush
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Sticky-flowered rabbitbrush
<i>Encelia virginensis</i> ssp. <i>actonii</i>	Bush sunflower
<i>Erigeron breweri</i> var. <i>porphyreticus</i>	Boulder daisy
<i>Eriophyllum pringlei</i>	Bud eriophyllum
<i>Gnaphalium chilense</i>	Cotton-batting plant
<i>Hulsea heterocroma</i>	Great hulsea
<i>Layia glandulosa</i>	White tidy-tips
<i>Malacothrix californica</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	Desert dandelion
<i>Stephanomeria parryi</i>	Parry rock pink
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>	Desert milk-aster
<i>Tetradymia axillaris</i>	Cotton-thorn
<i>Tetradymia canescens</i>	Spineless Horsebrush

#### **BETULACEAE.** Birch family

<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Water birch
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#### **BORAGINACEAE.** Borage or Forget-me-not Family.

<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>	Fiddleneck
<i>Cryptantha barbiger</i>	Fuzzy forget-me-not
<i>Cryptantha circumscissa</i>	Capped forget-me-not

*Cryptantha circumscissa*

Capped forget-me-not

*Cryptantha confertiflora*

Golden forget-me-not

*Cryptantha mohavensis*

Mohave forget-me-not

*Cryptantha pterocarya*

Wing-nut forget-me-not

*Pectocarya setosa*

Round pectocarya

*Tiquilia nuttallii*

Nuttall tiquilia

Syn= *Coldenia nuttallii***BRASSICACEAE.** Mustard Family*Arabis pulchra*

Prince's rock-cress

*Caulanthus cooperi*

Cooper caulanthus

*Caulanthus pilosus*

Chocolate drops

*Descurainia pinnata*

Tansy mustard

*Descurainia sophia*

Flixweed

*Lepidium fremontii*

Bush peppergrass

**CAMPANULACEAE.** Bellflower Family.*Nemacladus glandulosa* var. *orientalis*

Glandular thread-plant

**CHENOPODIACEAE.** Goosefoot or saltbush Family.*Ceratoides lanata*

Winter fat

Syn=*Eurotia lanata**Salsola paulsenii*

Barbwire Russian thistle

**CONVOLVULACEAE.** Morning Glory Family.*Calystegia longipes*

Morning glory

**DATISCAEAE.** Datisca Family.*Datisca gomerata*

Durango root

**EQUISETACEAE.** Horse-tail Family.*\*Equisetum laevigatum*

Scouring rush

**EPHEDRACEAE.** Ephedra Family.*\*Ephedra nevadensis*

Nevada ephedra

*\*Ephedra viridis*

Green ephedra

**EUPHORBIACEAE.** Spurge Family.*Chamaesyce albomarginata*

Rattlesnake weed

Syn= *Euphorbia albomarginata***FABACEAE.** Pea Family.*Astragalus sepultipes*

Independence milk-vetch

*Lotus procumbens* var. *jepsonii*

Prostrate lotus

*Lupinus excubitus*

Inyo bush lupine

*Lupinus magnificus* var. *glarecola*

Kerr lupine

*Melilotus alba*

White sweetclover

**FAGACEAE.** Beech or Oak Family.

*\*Quercus kelloggii*

Black oak

**GERANIACEAE.** Geranium Family.

*Erodium cicutarium*

Red-stemmed filaree

**HYROPHYLLACEAE.** Phacelia Family.

*Emmanthe penduliflora*

*Nama eretionides*

*Nama depressum*

*Nama rotrockii*

*Phacelia curvipes*

*Phacelia distans*

*Tricardia watsonii*

Whispering bells

Sagebrush nama

Narrow-leaved nama

Blue balls

Dwarf phacelia

Common phacelia

Three hearts

**JUNCACEAE.** Rush Family.

*Juncus balticus*

Wire grass

**LAMIACEAE.** Mint Family.

*Salvia columbariae*

*Stachys albens*

Chia

White hedge-nettle

**LILIACEAE.** Lily Family.

*Dichelostemma pulchellum*

*Smilacina stellata*

Blue dicks

Star flower

**LOASACEAE.** Loasa Family.

*Mentzelia albicaulis*

*Mentzelia congesta*

*Mentzelia vaatchiana*

Little blazing star

Flower baskets

Copper blazing star

**MALVACEAE.** Mallow Family.

*Sphaeralcea ambigua*

Apricot mallow

**NYCTAGINACEAE.** Four O'clock Family.

*Abronia pogonantha*

*Mirabilis bigelovii*

Mojave sand verbena

Wishbone bush

**ONAGRACEAE.** Evening Primrose Family.

*Camissonia claviformis ssp. claviformis*

*Camissonia pubens*

*Camissonia pusilla*

*Oenothera hookeri*

Brown-eyed primrose

Robust wiry primrose

Little wiry primrose

Tall yellow primrose

**PAPAYERACEAE.** Poppy Family.

*Argemone munita ssp. rotundata*

*Eschscholzia minutiflora*

Mountain prickly poppy

Little gold-poppy

**POACEAE.** Grass Family.

*Bromus rubens*

Red brome

## Downy brome

*Leymus triticoides*  
 Syn=*Elymus triticoides*  
*Oryzopsis hymenoides*  
*Poa secunda*  
*Sitanion hystrix*  
*Stipa occidentalis*

Creeping wildrye  
 Indian ricegrass  
 Varied bluegrass  
 Squirreltail  
 Western needlegrass

**POLEMONIACEAE.** Phlox family.

*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *austroriparianum*  
*Eriastrum wilcoxii*  
*Gilia malior*  
*Gilia ochroleuca* ssp. *ochroleuca*  
*Loeseliastrum matthewsii*  
 Syn= *Langloisia matthewsii*  
*Linanthus dichotomus*  
*Linanthus parryi*  
*Phlox longifolia* var. *stansburyi*

Blue mantle  
 Wilcox woolly gilia  
 Scrub gilia  
 Volcanic pale gilia  
 Sunbonnets  
 Evening snow  
 Sand blossoms  
 Long-tubed phlox

**POLYGONACEAE.** Buckwheat Family.

*Centrostegia thurberi*  
 Syn= *Charizantha thurberi*  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*  
*Eriogonum maculatum*  
*Eriogonum nidularium*  
*Eriogonum pusillum*  
*Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *salicifolium*  
*Rumex salicifolium*

Red triangles  
 California buckwheat  
 Spotted buckwheat  
 Whiskbroom  
 Yellow turbans  
 Willow smartweed  
 Willowdock

**PORTULACACEAE.** Purslane Family.

*Calyptidium monandrum*

Sand cress

**RANUNCULACEAE.** Buttercup Family.

*Aquilegia shockleyi*  
*Clematis ligusticifolia*  
*Delphinium parishii*

Mojave columbine  
 Virgin's bower  
 Desert larkspur

**RHAMNACEAE.** Buckthorn Family

\**Ceanothus leucodermis*  
 \**Rhamnus californica* var. *cuspidata*

Wild lilac  
 Coffee berry

**ROSACEAE.** Rose Family

*Potentilla biennis*  
 \**Prunus andersonii*  
 \**Purshia glandulosa*  
*Rosa woodsii*

Green cinquefoil  
 Desert peach  
 Desert bitterbrush  
 Wild rose

**SALICACEAE.** Willow Family.

*Populus acuminata*

Lanceleaf cottonwood

\**Salix exigua*  
\**Salix lasiolepis*

Narrow-leaf willow  
Arroyo willow

**SCROPHULARIACEAE.** Figwort or Snapdragon Family.

*Castilleja chomosa*  
*Castilleja miniata*  
*Mimulus pilosus*  
Syn= *Mimetanthe pilosa*  
*Mimulus cardinalis*  
*Mimulus guttatus*  
*Mimulus floribundus*  
*Scrophularia desertorum*

Desert paintbrush  
Streamside paintbrush  
Clammy mimulus  
  
Scarlet mimulus  
Common monkey-flower  
Spring mimulus  
Figwort

**SOLANACEAE.** Nightshade Family.

*Nicotiana attenuata*

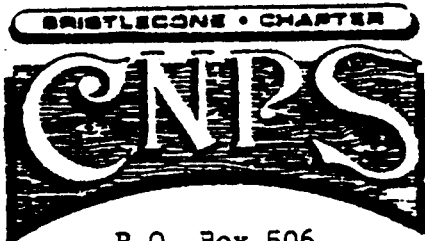
Coyote tobacco

**URTICACEAE.** Nettle Family.

*Urtica dioica* ssp. *gracilis*

Stinging nettle

California Native Plant Society



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