

NEXT MEETING

Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. at Chicago Title (formerly Safeco Safeco Title) 230 West Line, Bishop. The program will feature a representative from Caltrans. Come; let's learn and discuss the area between pavement and edge of right-of-way that might hold rare plants, poisonous plants, weedy intruders, or beautiful displays of natives. Share refreshments with us. Everyone welcome

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Several years ago, on the way to an overnight in the Bullfrog Hills, Bristlecone Chapter members and friends spent an unplanned hour pulling and bagging the poisonous intruder from Nevada, *Halogeton*, that was getting a good start at the summit of Daylight Pass.

A few weeks ago, on another summit, that of Lime Hill on the Loretto Road to Eureka Valley, I was startled to see dozens of the red-stemmed, fleshy-leaved plants thriving on the hard earth of a disturbed area below the dolomite quarry.

I talked to men of the Department of Agriculture in Bishop, Mr. Donald R. Muse and Mr. George L. Milovich, Jr. Yes, they knew of the site. It was one of over 20 sites that they were watching and treating when possible. The infestations along Highway 395 could be sprayed for control, but Lime Hill is on BLM land and BLM does not allow spraying. The men hoped, however, that the rule would be changed so that spray could be used on such infestations.

I asked about hand pulling. The above two men are the only employees working out of the Bishop office where they serve both Inyo and Mono counties, along with being responsible for weights and measures. Among other pests they are fighting Canada thistle in Round Valley. A wicked new invader has appeared on the scene, *Centaurea solstitialis*, yellow starthistle, with forbidding spines. Handpulling every little *Halogeton* was out of the question. But they were not adverse to accepting the plastic bags of the plant brought in from Lime Hill. We hope we have eliminated the threat on that scenic route. Pulled plants of this pest are not to be placed in trash cans or dumps. They should be taken to the Department of Agriculture, 207 West South Street, Bishop, for proper disposal by burning.

.....Doris Fredendall



BRISTLECONE CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS – SUMMER & FALL SCHEDULE

AUGUST 13-14. ROCK CREEK BASIN, SIERRA NEVADA BETWEEN BISHOP AND MAMMOTH. Leader: Mark Bagley. **Joint trip with the Channel Islands CNPS Chapter.** Local people are welcome to make it a day trip. 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. Meet Saturday morning at 9:00, just east of Tom's Place on Rock Creek Road near Highway 395.

SEPTEMBER 17. GARDISKY LAKE, TIOGA CREST WEST OF LEE VINING. Leaders: Tina & Mead Hargis. This is a walking trip, it's about 3/4 mile up a steep maintained trail to the lake. Trailhead is about 9700 ft elevation and the lake is about 10,500 ft. Beautiful scenic lake basin, possibly some early fall color, and several rare plants (ie. *Arabis tiehmi*) we may still find in fruit. Meet at 10:00 am, at the junction of Tioga Road (Hwy 120) and the Saddleback Lake Road, about 2 miles east of Tioga Pass.

OCTOBER 22. LAST CHANCE RANGE, EUREKA VALLEY. Leader: Doris Fredendall. Hike up one of the canyons of the Last Chance Range, on the west side off of the road to Eureka Sand Dunes. Moderate hike of a few miles up rocky old mining road. Meet at 9:00 am, in Big Pine at the Triangle Campground, junction of U.S. 395 and Hwy 168.

NOTE: 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. Everyone welcome, but please no pets. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine on our trips. For more information, contact Mark Bagley, field trip chairman, at 873-5326.

SPECIAL PLANT TOUR AND SUPPER.

Meet in Onion Valley at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. We will spend a few hours enjoying the flowers of this special place, then descend to Seven Pines (above Gray's Meadows). There we will meet at the cabin-home of Bessie Poole for a pot-luck supper. Bring table service. Elizabeth McClintock, Chairperson of the State Exotic Plant Inventory, will be our guest. It is always a special treat to have CNPS people from "the other side" come to visit us.

For more information call Mary DeDecker , 878-2389, or Doris Fredendall, 938-2787.

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Things with a price have taken precedence over things which are priceless!!!!!!!!!!!!

What are your priorities? What can we do to reestablish the most meaningful priorities for the future? Letters anyone?



From Payne's Prairie Newsletter, FNPS, Winter Park, Florida.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

May 21-22, Tetracoccus Peak.

On May 21, Mike Prather fearlessly led a band of CNPSers to the rocky pinnacles and ridgeline of Tetracoccus Peak. The group was remarkably diverse, both in age and origin. Aside from local Californians, we were pleased to have a horticulturalist from Kew Gardens, London, accompany us. She wore her Oxford straw "boater", and a joyful smile upon seeing her specialty, Cacti, in native habitat. Yet another UK botanist, who was working on a flora of the Panamint Mountrains, a master's project at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, contributed his expertise. Peter Rowland, Environmental Specialist of Death Valley National Monument, added his enthusiasm and knowledge.

The hike was steep and challenging, requiring us to muster all our "billy-goat" abilities. We had much fun helping each other up and down. Indeed, a few of the followers eventually declared it **too much fun** and decided to turn back early to zig and zag at a leisurely pace back to the parking area. The rest of us continued to a saddle where we ate lunch while sitting on a hot, black rocky outcrop, viewing the rare shrub, *Tetracoccus*, for which the peak is named. Later we observed more endemic plants as we clattered through the rocks towards the top. Especially charming were the pretty pink faces of rock midget, *Mimulus rupicola*, which took advantage of sheltered rocky cracks to grow where you'd least expect to find anything so lovely. The peculiar napkin-ring buckwheat, *Eriogonum intrafractum*, was there but not yet in bloom.

We reached the broad top which yielded a dramatic panorama of multi-colored Death Valley and the eroded Amargosa Range in the distance. We left the lovely bear poppy, *Arctomecon merriamii*, nodding to us as we slowly turned to leave this special place. During the long and winding return, the youngest member of the party, Phoebe Prather, was sharp-eyed enough to see a baby rattler crossing the trail.

We ended the day in the depths of an exciting old mine located behind Pete Aguerberry's cabin lower in the canyon. Peter Rowlands told us this mine had been prepared as an interpretive site by closing off dangerous areas and providing explanations to be read by flashlight.

A pleasant camp-out high in Wildrose Canyon finished the day. The plaint of the whippoorwill seemed appropriate for the peaceful scene. The following morning we botanized near the historic charcoal kilns. We were especially impressed by the magnificent lupine, *Lupinus magnificus*. The week end was truly sensational, stimulating, and unforgettable!

.....Victoria Hamilton

June 4, Mazourka Canyon.

Evelyn Mae and Al Nikolous made the best of a difficult assignment in leading a trip up Mazourka Canyon This dry year. It was hot, and the normally abundant floral display simply was not there. Few local people showed up, but those from outside the area seemed excited over the interesting desert species new to them. It took some searching to find any blooms. Our leaders scheduled a refreshing lunch stop with shade and flowing water at Barrel Springs. Then we traveled on to Badger Flat and Mazourka Peak. A relay station gave reason for a good road to the to the top. It furnished a great view of Owens Valley,north and south. We hurriedly donned the jackets we couldn't imagine wanting earlier on the trip. Al rescued Evelyn Mae's pretty hat just before it blew over the edge. There we were rewarded with a few hardy flowers, and were surprised to find several shrubs of hopsage, *Grayia spinosa*, on top at 9350 feet. By the end of the day we were reluctant to part company, so we all went out to Aberdeen to continue good fellowship over dinner.

.....Mary DeDecker

June 18-19, Inyo Mountains.

The jeep road became rougher and rockier. Then we rounded a bend and headed straight up the first test for our 4-wheel drive vehicles. Next we caravanned up switch-backs to an open summit west of Andrews Mountain at 9100 feet. Our Ford F 250 is rather long and we had to back up and see-saw around one of the hairpin turns. Nine 4-WD vehicles had left Triangle Campground in Big Pine at 9:00 a.m. and here we were on top. Paul and Mary had led us to a great place. It was beautiful

We botanized on the summit area for a couple of hours. Star performer for photographers was a Mojave mound cactus, *Echinocereus triglocidiatus* var. *mojavensis*, in full bloom. Those brilliant red hues were gorgeous and would challenge the best of camera equipment and film to faithfully reproduce. The plant was perched on a rocky shelf, a most picturesque pose. We had a leisurely lunch here, enjoying the cool breeze and a magnificent view.

After lunch the caravan wound down to Papoose Flat, stopping en route to see disks of cushion phlox, *Phlox condensata* or *Phlox covillei*, and other

limestone plants. Sharp granite rock formations rose up from the floor of Papoose Flat, which was surrounded by a Pinyon-Juniper Woodland. Really spectacular! The weather cooperated for the week end - cumulus clouds which gave us shade, and cool breezes.

We set up camp on the flat in a grove of Pinyon and members scattered to botanize or explore the rock formations. Unusual plants were found (See list). Most appealing to me (Ray) was the tiny loco weed with the furry little seed pods, *Astragalus purshii* var. *tinctus*. They were in abundance on the flat. I do not learn the scientific names--it hurts my head. But we have learned a lot in the year-and-a-half that we have been members of the Bristlecone Chapter. The credit goes mainly to the DeDeckers, the Yoders, Doris Fredendall, Mark Bagley, the Henrys and others, bless their hearts. They keep pounding the names of plants into our heads.

Our plans to continue south and out through Mazourka Canyon the next morning were thwarted by a stalled vehicle at the foot of a very steep, rocky grade. One of the geologists camped a half-mile from us apparently had had a wild ride and ripped a "U" joint. Mary and Paul came up with an alternate plan to go through Squaw Flat to the head of the Marble Canyon Narrows. This is a very dramatic, narrow canyon on the slope of Squaw Peak. We were happy to find that although parts of the road had been washed out, other travelers had found a way through. What an interesting trip it was! The Narrows was the site of an abandoned mine, and the home of several rare plant species. Bristlecone and Limberpine come down to 7250 feet there, and some Sierra species occur. These include mountain maple, *Acer glabrum*, and Cliffbush, *Jamesia americana* var. *californica*.

While the others were botanizing the Narrows, Paul and I (Ray) decided to reconnoiter to see if it were possible to get up the canyon leading out from that point. If so we could avoid backtracking for miles back to Papoose flat. We took Paul's little 4-WD Toyota truck and crawled right up that canyon. It was not a road--it was a rocky wash! It was nip and ruck in a few places but we made it and felt it was safe to take the group through. At the end of that route we connected with the original point of entry, completing a loop.

As usual, this was a most enjoyable outing--botanizing and 4-wheel-driving in some of the most beautiful country you have ever seen. We look forward to each and every trip. Not only are we learning more and more about plants, but it gives us the opportunity to spend time with wonderful people with whom a common interest is shared

.....Ray and Bette Sisson

The following plants seen on the above trip were of special interest and/or exceptionally beautiful:

- Abronia nana* ssp. *covillei* . . (NYCTAGINACEAE) **Limestone sand-verbena**, Papoose Flat.
- Acer glabrum* var. *diffusum*, **Mountain maple**, (ACERACEAE) Narrows
- Camissonia refracta*, **narrow-leaved primrose** (ONAGRACEAE), Narrows.
- Caulastramina jaegeri*, *cliff dweller*, (BRASSICACEAE) Narrows.
- Dalea searlsiae* , formerly *Petalostemon searlsiae*, **prairie clover**, (FABACEAE), road out from Squaw Flat.
- Erigeron tener*, **slender daisy**, (ASTERACEAE), Papoose Flat.
- Eriogonum rupinum*, **limberpine buckwheat**, (POLYGONACEAE), summit.
- Gilia transmontana*, **star gilia**, (POLEMONIACEAE), Narrows.
- Halimolobus difussa* var. *jaegeri*, **rock-mustard**, (BRASSICACEAE), Papoose Flat.
- Haplopappus gilmanii* **Gilman goldenbush**, (ASTERACEAE), Narrows.
- Jamesia americana* var. *californica*, **cliffbush**, (SAXIFRAGACEAE), Narrows.
- Navarretia breweri*, **yellow navarretia** (POLEMONIACEAE), Papoose Flat
- Oenothera caespitosa* ssp. *crinita*, **limestone primrose** (ONAGRACEAE) Papoose Flat.
- Oenothera caespitosa* ssp. *marginata*, **large white evening primrose**, (ONAGRACEAE) , Narrows.
- Penstemon patens*, **Owens Valley penstemon**, (SCROPHULARIACEAE) Papoose Flat.
- Penstemon rostiflorus*, formerly *Penstemon bridgesii*, **red penstemon**, (SCROPHULARIACEAE), en route.
- Penstemon speciosus*, **showy penstemon**, (SCROPHULARIACEAE) Narrows.
- Penstemon scapioides*, **Westgard penstemon**, (SCROPHULARIACEAE), Narrows, and on road out.
- Perityle megaloccephala* var. *megelocephala* , **tall perityle**, (ASTERACEAE), Papoose Flat.
- Perityle megaloccephala* var. *oligophylla*, **limestone perityle**, (ASTERACEAE), Narrows.
- Phlox condensata*, **cushion phlox**, (POLEMONIACEAE) Road to Papoose Flat.
- Ribes cereum*, **wax currant**, (SAXIFRAGACEAE) , Narrows.

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.

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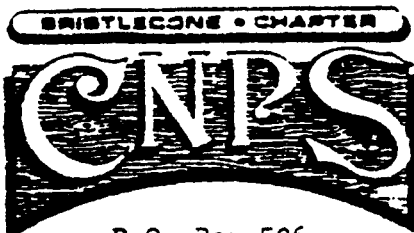
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