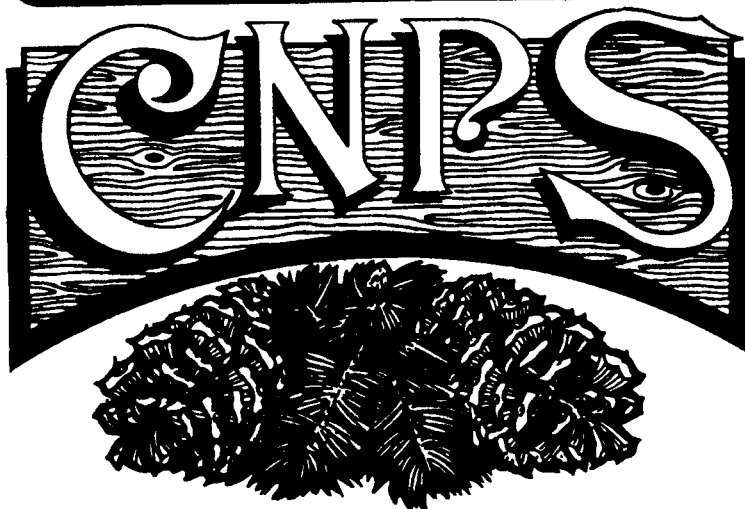


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 8, No. 5

September 1989

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 pm

Meet in Independence at the Sierra Baptist Church, located at the corner of Highway 395 and N. Edwards.

Connie Rutherford, BLM California Desert District Botanist, will present a slide presentation on the BLM's botany program in the desert with an emphasis on rare plant management.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The CNPS State Board meeting which our chapter hosted in Lone Pine last June was enjoyed and appreciated by all. We have received a letter of thanks from Suzanne Schettler, State President. I want to pass those thanks on with my own thank you to all of those in the chapter who helped organize and put this event on. Special thanks go to Vince and Ann Yoder who headed the organizing efforts. Unfortunately, Vince, who put in so much work, could not enjoy the fruits of his labor as he was in bed with the flu. At the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to also thank Betty Gilchrist, Dotti Susman, Doris Fredendall, Diane Payne, and Mary DeDecker for their efforts in making this run so well.

If you have not done so already, now is a good time to buy your California Wildlands Pass. This is a new program by the Dept. of Fish and Game to raise revenue for their non-game programs (such as endangered species). Historically Fish and Game has been funded by buyers of hunting and fishing licenses, and primarily served the interests of these constituents. This source of revenue has been declining, and Fish and Game now recognizes that many appreciate the wilderness without hunting and fishing. This is our chance to help preserve the habitats of non-game species. A \$10 pass and information can be obtained where hunting and fishing licenses are sold. This program really needs out support.

..... Mark Bagley

EASTERN SIERRA GRASSROOTS WORKSHOP
Sat., Sept. 30th, 9 am-3 pm
White Mountain Research Station, Bishop

The purpose of the workshop is to bring environmental activism in the Eastern Sierra to a higher level of effectiveness by focusing on interlocking the different groups and individuals in our area. This workshop is sponsored by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club and is open to all environmental organizations and all individuals who wish to improve their effectiveness. Please contact Michael Prather 619-876-5807 (before 8:30 pm) for additional information.

* * * * *

DESERT BILL HEARING, October 28th
BISHOP - location unknown

Congressman Lehman will hold a hearing on the Desert Bill (HR 780) in Bishop on Oct. 28. Time and place are not known as of this writing. Please attend and testify or present a letter in support of this bill. Show them that we want to protect the desert and let them know of your first hand experience in areas that are included in the bill. For more information please contact Michael Prather (above) or Mark Bagley, 619-873-5326.

FINAL BRISTLECONE CHAPTER FIELD TRIP

OCT. 14, Saturday. ROCK CREEK CANYON. Leader: Mark Bagley. Driving and walking trip to see the Fall color, learn identification and natural history of the trees and shrubs, and maybe even 1 or 2 flowers which might be left. Easy walking. Meet 9:30 am at the junction of Rock Creek Road and Crowley Lake Drive, near Tom's Place. Bring lunch and something to drink.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

INYO MOUNTAIN CREST, 4-wheel drive trip, August 19-20.

We found beautiful weather when our enthusiastic group met at the edge of Independence. The ten vehicles contained people of varied interests, from many parts of California. As we ascended Mazourka Canyon we passed through several plant communities--Creosote Bush Scrub, Saltbush Scrub and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland. From Badger Flat we took a side trip to Mazourka (Barber) Peak (9441 ft.) This wind buffeted western extension of the range contained a subalpine fell-field type of vegetation. We couldn't enjoy the belly flowers this year due to the lack of rain. This didn't stop us from enjoying the view as Paul and Mary gave us a geography lesson on the Owens Valley and a length of the Sierra Nevada in full view before us. We lunched under the first limberpine and bristlecone pines at 9000 ft., a picturesque spot beside gray dolomitic cliffs. We shared much of the rest of the route with Rod Ayers' cattle.

The most unique spot, botanically, was a saddle just west of the Sidehill Spring. Many belly plants were observed on the dolomitic soil there, including some which were relatively rare. The highlight for me was seeing the perennial sand verbena, *Abronia nana* ssp. *covillei*. *Oenothera caespitosa* ssp. *crinita* was there also, apparently a favored food of the cattle. We were concerned over the fact that such a special assemblage of small plants was being badly impacted by the cattle.

We spent the night, at road's end, a delightfully beautiful, quiet place in the bristlecone - limberpine forest. This was just beyond the "cow camp" which was full of the comforts of home. Some distance to the south, Mary showed us the habitat of the rare perennial *Cryptantha roosiorum*. The tiny plants were difficult to find because they were past blooming. At sundown we shared stories and refreshments during a "happy hour". We were not allowed to have an open campfire due to the extreme fire hazard. That night it got down to 38 degrees F. We were camping at 10,200 feet.

The next day we took a surveyor's trail to the shoulder of Waucoba Mountain, a high, open area with a tremendous view. Our return trip was by way of Papoose Flat visiting the drier side of the mountain. Evidence of the Papoose Flat pluton remains in picturesque granite towers. In their crevices we found a few unusual plants, including *Perityle megalacephala* var. *oligophylla* with yellow, rayless flowers. At 3:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon we reached the paved Waucoba-Saline Road. After two days of driving we had traveled less than seventy miles. After actively going on CNPS trips for over over 17 years, I have never met people of places that I didn't hope to see again

..... David Charlton and Myron Alexander

NEW PUBLICATIONS

First is " **A Bishop Creek Plant List**" by Jack and Pat Crowther, The Bristlecone Chapter's first publication. It is a 19-page list with the families in alphabetical order. It may be obtained through this chapter or in local outlets. The price is \$1.75 including tax. Jack and Pat are dedicated students of the local flora, so their attractive booklet is a valuable contribution. Orders may be placed through Vince Yoder, P.O. Box 330, Lone Pine, CA 93545.

The second is " **Eastern Sierra Water Symposium**", a compilation of talks given at the February 4 symposium in Bishop. These presented the various viewpoints concerning water problems east of the Sierra. The speakers were Richard Atwater, Director of Resources, MWD; James F. Wickser, Assistant Chief Engineer, Los Angeles DWP; Antonio-Cosby-Rossmann, Visiting Professor of Law at UCLA; Dr. David P. Groeneveld, Plant Ecologist, Inyo County Water Department; William P. Hutchison, Hydrology Consultant, Inyo County Water Department; Daniel Paranick, Mono County Supervisor; Ellen Hardebeck, Air Pollution Control Officer, and Martha Davis, Executive Officer, Mono Lake Committee. The free flowing afternoon panel is not included. Those who could not attend the symposium now have an opportunity to read what they missed. Those who did attend will surely want to review it. The book is for sale at \$5.00 per copy as long as they last. It may be ordered through this newsletter address. The Bristlecone Chapter played a major role in planning and conducting the symposium.

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Lewis Jr., Bishop

Phyllis Motolla, Bishop

NOMINEES FOR NEW OFFICERS

President. . . . Diane Payne

Vice-President. . . . Carla Scheidlinger

Secretary. . . . Bette Sisson

Treasurer. . . . Sara Manning

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

Mono County won the honors in the poster contest this year. Winners were Leslie Yauney, Mammoth Lakes, second; Jennifer de la Vigne, Mammoth Lakes, third; Seth Quinby, Mammoth Lakes, Honorable Mention; and Cloe Dillon, June Lake, Honorable Mention.

PARK LAND

The following guest article by Frank Havore is dated 1987 but the concern expressed is up to date. Mr. Havore is employed by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the County of Los Angeles as Administrator of the North Region Natural Areas.

"We have to take a stab at conservation, but I am troubled by what I see as a growing philosophy that we have to protect [park] resources at the expense of the public."--Feb. 5, 1987, by William P. Horn, US Dept. of the Interior, Asst. Secretary for (or against?) Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Fascinating words these, coming as they do from the mouth (if not the brain) of someone so highly placed in the agency which runs our federal Wildlife Refuges, National Monuments and National Parks. The context in which Mr. Horn aired his flatulent notions was a discussion of the future use policies for our National Parks; specifically whether or not they should be regarded as reservoirs of public resources, held in trust for all future Americans, or as "nature playgrounds," where fun for all--right now--has priority over long-term management or preservation ethics.

Career park managers and rangers, with centuries of collective knowledge and wisdom in such matters, noted that the 1916 Congressional Act creating the National Park Service specifically states that they must "conserve" the natural resources, while providing for the public "enjoyment of same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Horn, with minutes of collective knowledge and wisdom in such matters, feels that the word "impairment" is highly subjective, and that the 1916 Congress never intended that it be interpreted as placing resource protection above public use.

In the looking-glass of 1987 Washington D.C., Horn's position may seem consistent and well taken. Most conditional modifiers may be difficult to define absolutely out of context, and so, by his novel logic, words such as "freedom", "peaceful", "quiet", "clean" and "safe" may also be found highly subjective and open to broad interpretation. After all, how free is free? One's enjoyment of something is largely dependent upon individual needs, and if the William Horns of this world have sufficiently distanced themselves from reality, their needs may no longer include clear streams, fresh breezes, or pristine forests. Relative degrees of clear, fresh and pristine may suit them just fine. How impaired must a resource be to be truly impaired for future enjoyment? Does running over something in a motor vehicle "impair" it for the future, or merely alter its shape? And what if you derive enjoyment by not communing with nature, but by running it over?

The natural world, as presently constituted, appears to have limited appeal to certain people who don't relate well to orderly growth and conformity. Where you or I would find a trampled meadow offensive to our sensibilities, members of the Native Flattened Plant Society might like it just fine.

Silly subjectivity aside, the debate over park land use is really quite serious, with distinguished service careers on the line, and the very future of our National and other park systems in grave jeopardy. The prime issues center on three main points of disagreement or philosophy. First are wilderness lands, set aside in parks, merely undeveloped potential properties? Do we hold them in trust only until such time as we can think of some more utilitarian purpose for them? Second, are the managers of our park lands--the rangers, naturalists and supervisors--guardians of the resources, or gatekeepers for the public hordes? Is the primary purpose of the regions and their managers to put as many human uses into the

areas as physically possible, or to balance human use with resource protection? And third, should the parks, of whatever level of administration, be subject to the whims and wiles of the political systems, or should they be held separate and apart from the machinations of environmentally ignorant and insensitive politicians?

Each of these points is controversial and many-faceted, and you may find as many opinions as persons willing to voice them. Realistically, we will never reconcile most of the primary issues, and our parks will always be a part of one bureaucracy or another, with their budgets and management blowing back and forth in the political winds. The long-term net consequences of this could be tragic for all of us non-Horns who place inestimable value in tall trees, sweet water, and a diversified environment filled with the fascinating products of biological evolution. If you steam at the thought of some kid on an ATC blasting through a field of desert wildflowers, think how you might feel if you found out that it was OK for him to do it? That the park services considered it a compatible use of the resources to ride motorcycles through the meadows of Yosemite, or drive dune buggies over the delicate life forms of Alpine Butte Sanctuary? Make your blood boil? Well I should say! Friends you've got trouble, with a capital T, and that rhymes with P and that stands for Parks.

The drift in most political circles today is away from Resource protection in favor of utilization, even to the point of regarding open space as available space. Wm. Horn is not the disease, only one of its symptoms.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Probably the one activity that has changed the Inyo-Mono landscape as much as any other is the grazing upon public lands during the last 140 years or so. Before federal regulation began early in this century the wildlands were severely overgrazed by tens of thousands of sheep and cattle each year. Many were driven from as far as Bakersfield.

Not only did the valley floors suffer but the high mountain meadows were also severely overgrazed. When land is overgrazed the ground cover is decreased and soils are disturbed. Increased runoff is a result. This erodes top soil, erodes the drainage channels, and thus lowers the water table. Sagebrush and other shrubby types intrude into the meadow and soon its character has changed from meadow to brushland. Meadow plants which need a high water table disappear. Trampled streambanks become dry, eroded slopes. Recovery is a very long process which first requires reduction or removal of grazing animals. Reconstruction of stream channels to raise the water level again is a long, difficult project.

Grazing livestock have preferences just as we do. Over many years of grazing, some of the more favored plants have been reduced or dried out, while aggressive plant species become more plentiful. When grazed during flowering and seed setting, plants cannot reproduce and are doomed for extinction at that site. How many species in our area no longer exist because of this? Extinction if forever.

The bajadas and valley floor are now covered with shrubs that are less palatable than the grasses--rabbitbrush, sagebrush, Cooper goldenbush, shadscale, desert tomato, hopsage, etc.

The cure? Strongly limit, control, or eliminate grazing, at least from sensitive places such as meadows, springs, seeps, and riparian areas. This is necessary to restore plant diversity and to insure survival of the less aggressive species.

.....Vincent Yoder

NOTE: The next issue's Conservation Corner will be an update on water matters.



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

909 12th Street, Suite 116 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 447-CNPS

TO: Plant Conservationists

FROM: Bruce Pavlik, Vice-President, Rare Plants

SUBJECT: Letters urgently needed for State-listing of
Endangered Species.

DATE: 7 September 1989

Reports prepared by the Department of Fish and Game on petitions to officially State-list the seventeen candidate plant species on the attached list are being reviewed by the Fish and Game Commission. At a meeting on October 6, 1989, the Commission is scheduled to make a decision on these seventeen species, and to decide on listing Tecate Cypress (Cupressus forbesii), which they postponed at their last meeting.

It is critical that abundant support for State-listing these eighteen endangered plants (and protection efforts in general) be received prior to the meeting since, in the past, the Commission has been reluctant to list candidate plant species. Your letters are very important.

Letters should be received by October 1, 1989 to ensure consideration by the Commission. Even if you can't make the October 1st deadline, please send your letter anyway, as the decision may be postponed to a later hearing. Please send all correspondence to:

Robert Bryant, President
Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Thank you for taking the time to support the protection of California's endangered plants.

cc: Susan A. Cochran, Chief
Natural Heritage Division
California Department of Fish and Game

LETTERS URGING STATE-LISTING OF THESE CANDIDATE PLANT SPECIES
NEEDED BY OCTOBER 1, 1989.

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>SPECIES - PETITIONER</u>	<u>COUNTY(IES)</u>
E	<u>Abronia alpina</u> - Jim Andre	Tulare
E	<u>Allium fimbriatum</u> var. <u>munzii</u> - Steve Boyd	Riverside
E	<u>Astragalus clarianus</u> - Joe Callizo	Sonoma, Napa
T	<u>Carpenteria californica</u> - John Stebbins	Fresno
T	<u>Castilleja neglecta</u> - Jake Ruygt	Marin, Napa
T	<u>Chorizanthe valida</u> - Bob Allen	Marin
E	<u>Hemizonia increscens</u> ssp. <u>villosa</u> - David Magney	Santa Barbara
T	<u>Layia carnosa</u> - Ken Berg	Marin, Humboldt, Santa Barbara
E	<u>Lessingia germanorum</u> - Sue Smith	San Francisco
T	<u>Lupinus deflexus</u> - John Stebbins	Mariposa
E	<u>Navarretia pauciflora</u> - Jake Ruygt	Lake, Napa
E	<u>Opuntia treleasei</u> - Diane Mitchell	Kern
E	<u>Oryctes nevadensis</u> - Mary DeDecker	Inyo
E	<u>Parvisedum lelocarpum</u> - Charlie Patterson	Lake
E	<u>Pentachaeta lyonii</u> - Tim Thomas	Los Angeles, Ventura
E	<u>Plagiobothrys strictus</u> - Joe Callizo	Napa
T	<u>Verbesina dissita</u> - Fred Roberts	Orange
T	<u>Cupressus forbesii</u> - Connie Spenger	Orange, San Diego

This letter from our Rare Plant Vice-President is being printed in its entirety to accomodate those elsewhere in the state.

The only plant known to occur in this chapter's region is Oryctes nevadensis, a small annual (Solanaceae) which is seriously threatened by trampling of cattle. It's few sites in California are on the floor of Owens Valley, mostly only a few plants at a given site. It is rare in Nevada. It grows in loose, sandy soil, so any disturbance could be extremely destructive. Cattle do not appear to eat the plant--it would be too small to be worthwhile, even if tasty--but even normal trampling provides a serious impact. Any congregation of them would be disastrous. A plant could not be more worthy of listing.

Bristlecone members, PLEASE write a simple letter NOW to express your concern. The Deadline is October 1. Your letter may save a rare species.

. Mary DeDecker
Rare Plant Chairman

NOTICE: The Planning and Conservation League has scheduled a symposium entitled PROTECTING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT: LIVING HERE IN THE 1990's. It will be held at California State University, Los Angeles on October 14, 1989. Call (916) 444-8726.

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:

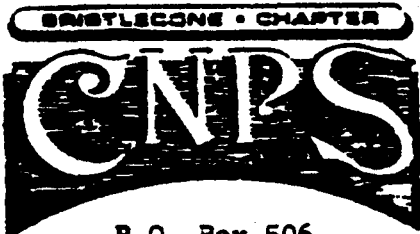
_____ Life, Couple	\$500	I wish to be affiliated with the
_____ Life, Individual	450	Bristlecone Chapter _____
_____ Supporting	50	Other _____
_____ Household	30	
_____ Individual or Library	18	Please make check payable to:
_____ Student or Retired	12	California Native Plant Society
_____ Retired Couple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

GIFT contribution: Where most
needed _____ Conservation _____

P.O. Box 506
Independence, CA 93526

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Editor: Mary DeDecker.

California Native Plant Society



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