PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The desert bill congressional field hearing in Bishop on Oct. 28 brought out a big crowd of people, both for and against the bill. I was pleased to see how many local people showed up in support. We were outnumbered, but the quality of our testimony was very good. Unfortunately, the Congressman present were mostly strongly biased against the bill. Fortunately, there are many other committee members in favor of the bill who were not present in Bishop. I expect more of these members will be at the Barstow and Los Angeles hearings. If you have not already done so, please write to your Congressman (Thomas of Inyo is strongly against, Lehman in Mono is sort of for it) and to Bruce Vento, Chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee. Send letters to: House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

This is my last President's Message and I would like to thank all the chapter officers and chairpersons for their dedicated work this past year on behalf of our native plants. Thank you also to all the interested members who helped out and participated in our chapter activities. All of your efforts made my job easier and more rewarding. Thank you.

Mark Bagley
CONSERVATION CORNER

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink! (It all goes to Los Angeles.) A bit exaggerated, but I'm sure many of us feel that way, particularly near the end (middle?) of a prolonged drought. (The national weather service issued a 90-day forecast on November 1 in which it was predicted that no rain would fall in the southwest quarter of the United States!)

So, we'd better have a water agreement that we can live with that at least allows Los Angeles (City) and Inyo (County) to maintain what we have rather than to leave it to an unknown fate in future court battles or possible adverse legislation favoring a hostile and uncontrolled city.

EIP Associates in San Francisco has been retained by the City to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the City's water operations in the Owens Valley. The County has equal access to the firm to provide input and review of the document all along the way to its issuance in February. We trust that the County's input will be given equal weight to the City's, even though the City is paying for it. The public (that's us, folks) will be given 60 days to review and comment on it. You can bet that we and the other environmental organizations and the public in general will use this opportunity to the best advantage.

In order to help make it possible to detect slow degradation of the environment we would urge that the EIR address the establishment of permanent plots for each of the plant communities. These plots would be used as a reference to help determine if degradation was occurring elsewhere in the nearby well fields. These reference plots would have to be located where pumping would have no effect whatsoever on them and their conditions would depend entirely on the vagueries of the weather.

In addition, we would also urge that the mitigation aspects of the program include preparation of management for endangered plants and animals along with provisions for putting such plans into effect.

All in all, the next six months are crucial indeed for the well-being of the Owens River watershed.

........ Vince Yoder, Conservation Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us this month:
Irene Berss, Bishop
Joyce Corey, Lone Pine
George J. Conley, Long Beach
Carolyn Honer, Santa Ana
Carolyn M. Owen, Seal Beach
Janet Westbrook, Ridgecrest
Irene Yamashita, Bishop

Editor's note: The last field trip reports will be held until the next issue. Be with us in January to enjoy the accounts of fall outings.
Alabama Hills Wet Area

In mid-September Mary DeDecker and I made a trip to a very special area of granite ridges and boulders with intersperced seeps, springs, and wetlands just north of Lubken Creek. This is such an exceptional area that we believe that issuing a plant list for it at this time is warranted. Some plants we found in bouldery areas and their nearby dry borders are also included.

**ADIANTACEAE** — Fern Family
Cheilanthes covillei  Coville lip fern

**APIACEAE** — Parsley Family
Berula erecta  Berula

**APOCYNACEAE** — Dogbane Family
Apocynum cannabinum var. glaberimum  Hemp

**ASCLEPIADACEAE** — Milkweed Family
Asclepias fascicularis  Narrow-leafed milkweed
A. speciosa  Showy milkweed

**ASTERACEAE** — Sunflower Family
Artemisia ludoviciana var. albula  White mugwort
A. tridentata  Basin sagebrush
Aster hesperius  Marsh aster
A. intricatus  Broom aster
Brickellia microphylla  Sweet brickellia
B. multiflora  Inyo brickellbush
Chrysothamnus nauseosus  Rubber rabbitbrush
C. teretifolius  Green rabbitbrush
Cichorium intybus  Chicory
Cirsium mohavense  Desert thistle
Coryza canadensis  Horseweed
Ericameria cooperi  Cooper goldenbush
E. cuneata  Rock goldenbush
Syn. Haplopappus cooperi
Syn. Haplopappus cuneatus
Gutierrezia microcephala  Matchweed
Hellanthus annuus ssp. jaegeri  Sunflower
Hymenoclea salsola  Cheeze-bush
Iva axilaris  Poverty weed
Solidego spectabilis  Basin goldenrod
Xanthium strumarium  Cocklebur

**BRASSICACEAE** — Mustard Family
Nasturtium officinale  Water-cress
Syn. Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum

**CAPPARACEAE** — Caper Family
Cleomella parviflora  Small-flowered stinkweed
CHENOPODIACEAE — Goosefoot Family
  Atriplex confertifolia    Shadscale
  A. parryi           Parry saltbush
  Bassia hyssopifolia    Bassia
  Gravia spinosa        Hop-sage
  Nitrophylla occidentalis    Alkali pink
  Salsola paulsenii    Barbwire Russian thistle

CUSCUTACEAE — Dodder Family
  Cuscuta indecora var. neuropetala    Pretty dodder
  C. pentagona var. calycina    Field dodder

CYPERACEAE — Sedge Family
  Eleocharis parishii    Parish spike-rush

EPHEDRACEAE — Ephedra Family
  Ephedra nevadensis    Nevada ephedra

FABACEAE — Pea Family
  Glycyrrhiza lepidota    Wild licorice
  Lotus corniculatus    Bird's-foot trefoil
  Mililotus alba        White sweet clover
  Trifolium wormskioldii    Cow clover

GERANIACEAE — Geranium Family
  Erodium cicutarium    Red-stemmed filaree

JUNCACEAE — Rush Family
  Juncus balticus var. mexicanus    Mexican rush

LAMIACEAE — Mint Family
  Mentha arvensis        Spearmint
  Stachys albens        White hedge-nettle

LEMNACEAE — Duckweed Family
  Lemma minuta        Minute duckweed

LILIACEAE — Lily Family
  Calochortus excavatus    Alkali mariposa
  Smilacena stellata    Star-flower

LYTHRACEAE — Loosestrife Family
  Lythrum californicum    Common loosestrife

MALVACEAE — Mallow Family
  Sidalcea covillei     Owens Valley mallow
  Sphaeralcea ambigua    Apricot mallow

OLEACEAE — Olive Family
  Forestierra neomexicana    Desert olive
  Fraxinus velutina    Desert ash
  Syn. var. coriaceae


### ONAGRACEAE -- Evening Primrose Family
- *Epilobium ciliatum* Valley epilobium
- *E. paniculatum* Forked epilobium
- *Oenothera hookeri* ssp. *angustifolia* Tall yellow evening primrose

### ORCHIDACEAE -- Orchid Family
- *Epipactis gigantea* Giant orchis

### PLANTAGINACEAE -- Plantain Family
- *Plantago major* Common plantain

### POACEAE -- Grass Family
- *Agrostis scabra* Ticklegrass
- *Distichlis spicata* Salt-grass
- *Leymus cinereus* Ashy wildrye
  - Syn. *Elymus cinereus*
- *Lolium perene* English ryegrass
- *Phragmites australis* Common reed
  - Syn. *P. communis*
- *Sporobolus airoides* Alkali sacaton
- *Stipa speciosa* Desert needlegrass

### Polygonaceae -- Buckwheat Family
- *Oxytheca perfoliata* Saucer plant
- *Polygonum persicaria* Lady's thumb

### RANUNCULACEAE -- Buttercup Family
- *Aquilegia shockleyi* Mojavi columbine
- *Clematis ligusticifolia* var. *brevifolia* Virgin's bower

### RHAMNACEAE -- Buckthorn Family
- *Rhamnus californica* ssp. *cuspidata* Coffeeberry

### ROSACEAE -- Rose Family
- *Prunus andersonii* Desert peach
- *Rosa woodsii* var. *gratissima* Wild rose

### SALICACEAE -- Willow Family
- *Salix exigua* Narrow-leafed willow
- *s. gooddingii* Valley willow
- *S. lasiolepis* Arroyo willow

### SAURURACEAE -- Lizard-tail Family
- *Anemopsis californica* Yerba mansa

### SCROPHULARIACEAE -- Figwort Family
- *Castilleja linariaefolia* Long-leafed paintbrush
- *Mimulus cardinalis* Scarlet mimulus
- *M. guttatus* Common monkey-flower
- *Scrophularia desertorum* Desert figwort
  - Syn. *S. californica* var. *desertorum*
- *Veronica americana* American brooklime
SOLANACEAE — Nightshade Family

Lycium andersonii  Desert tomato
L. cooperi  Peach-thorn
Solanum nodiflorum  Small-flowered nightshade

URTICACEAE — Nettle Family

Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis var. holosericea  Stinging nettle
Syn. U. holosericea

VIOLACEAE — Violet Family

Viola nephrophylla  Northern bog violet

More taxa will continue to be discovered, of course. It is proposed to lead a field trip here in the spring so that all can appreciate these wetlands in this otherwise arid setting.

.... Vince Yoder

POLITICS VS. REASON

In our September newsletter we named 18 species recommended for listing as threatened or endangered in the State of California. The decisions on listing were to be made by the Fish and Game Commission at their October 6 meeting. Each proposal had been well researched and fully justified. We are glad to report that 15 of those named were approved for listing. But we are thoroughly disgusted over the unprofessional attitude shown in regard to the other three, Abronia alpina, Oryctes nevadensis, and Cupressus forbesii. Those who were present at the hearing were incredulous over the ignorance and arrogance displayed by the commissioners. The remark that "Oryctes is a little plant 'way over on the other side of the mountains, so why worry about it" was hardly an appropriate comment. Perhaps we should be in Nevada where more sensitivity is shown toward endangered plants. There they recommend Oryctes for federal listing.

There is something terribly wrong when the fate of a rare species is dependent on the whims of an untrained, highly political body, completely indifferent to their responsibility to the public. As is typical of the ignorant, the commissioners discredited the input from those who did understand the plants in question. They were insulting to professional people.

The behavior of the commissioners is a serious flaw in the credibility of the California Department of Fish and Game. That agency employs many fine, well-trained people, capable of making wise decisions. Why are they not given the responsibility of determining state listings? It seems time to show our political power. Letters to Governor Deukmejian are suggested.

.... Mary DeDecker
Rare Plant Chairman
TEMPTING COURSES

Mildred Mathias, Emeritus Botany Professor from UCLA, tropical botanist, and friend to many in CNPS, is leading a trip to Costa Rica in early to mid-February 1990. She will visit Dan Janzen’s world-famous project in the dry tropical forest at Santa Rosa on the Pacific Coast, a coastal site near the Panamanian border, and a cloud forest at Monteverde on the continental spine. An extension can be made to see the beautiful rain forest on the Atlantic Coast. This is a great opportunity for a botanical adventure in Costa Rica with a world class instructor.

For information: Yvette Cloutier
21225 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite A
Malibu, CA 90265 (213) 452-2130

PLANT ECOLOGY AND THE VEGETATION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA
will be offered in Bishop through Cal State Bakersfield starting January 8 and continuing for 10 weeks. The course earns 5 quarter units and will meet on Mondays. For more information contact the instructor, Carla Scheidlinger at (619) 873-8439 or CSUB Representative at 938-2313

Course description:
The eastern Sierra region encompasses a variety of plant habitats, including desert scrub, riparian and alkali wetlands, and montane and alpine communities. This course will introduce the principles of plant ecology that govern the distribution of plant species in these habitats. The role of climate, soils, water, elevation, disturbance, and species interaction will be considered. Other topics include evolution, succession, community structure, and local and global conservation issues. There will be some field and lab exercises, but this is not intended as a plant identification course.

Content:
Major content areas include the history of ecology and its development as a science, species interactions, community attributes and methods for describing them, productivity, plant-soil interactions and mineral cycles, physical determinants of plant distribution (light, temperature, and water), disturbance factors that affect vegetation, and the distribution of major vegetation types both globally and locally.
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 Other____________________________________
- Supporting 50
- Household 30
- Individual or Library 18 Please make check payable to: California Native Plant Society
- Student or Retired 12 Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS P.O. Box 506
- Retired Couple 15 Independence, CA 93526

GIFT contribution: Where most needed_____ Conservation_____