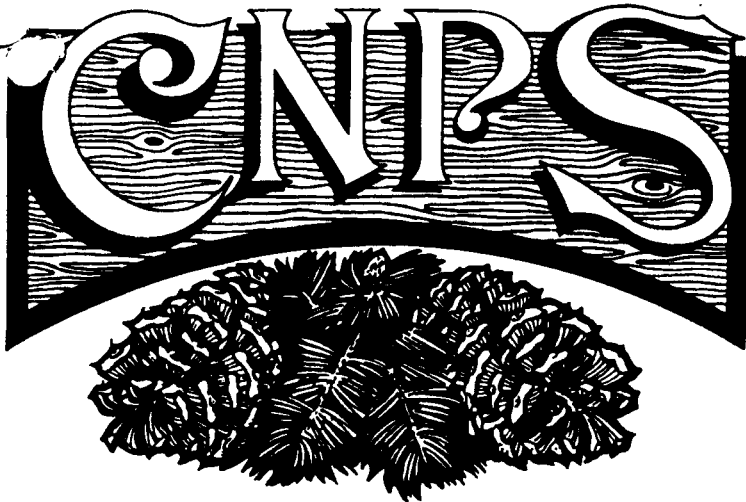


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

**BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER**

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 9, No. 3

May 1990

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

May 30, 7:30 pm, at the White Mountain Research Station on East Line St. Judie Tartaglia will give an illustrated talk on the Inyo N.F. timber management program with emphasis on its relation to the rare and sensitive plant program. Judie is the Forest Resources Officer and has supervisory control over Forest harvest operations.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

In addition to our usual summer field trips we will have the opportunity to assist the Forest Service with rare plant inventories. We can help locate populations of *Phacelia monoensis* and *Cusickiella quadricostata* (*Draba quadricostata*) in the Bodie Hills area on the week-end of June 16-17. Tina Mark in the Bridgeport Ranger District office is coordinating the effort for us. All wishing to know more about this wervice week-end should phone me or let me know by our May 30 meeting at the latest. Mileage can be paid by the Forest Service to help defray costs and we can enjoy primitive camping in the Bodie Hills.

We may also be able to help the Mt. Whitney Ranger District inventory sites of *Cryptantha roosiorum*, *Oenothera caespitosa* Ssp. *crinita*, and *Abronia nana* Ssp. *covillei* in the Sidehill and Seephole Springs areas. Dates for this outing have not been established yet (probably in mid-July) but you will be contacted for this, too, if you let me know that you are interested.

These searches should be interesting, informative and helpful to the Forest Service as well as ourselves. A good turnout is anticipated.

. . . . . Vince Yoder

**FLORAL TIPS:** There were a few floral treats this spring, in spite of the persistent drouth. They are over for this year, but we suggest that you keep the dates and sites in mind for May 1991.

*Ceanothus leucodermis*, known here as the Symmes Creek lilac, was in full bloom the first two weeks in May. It does not belong here, but is well established on the Foothill Road toward Symmes Creek. The entire population was burned in the 1985 fire, but crown sprouting has resulted in vigorous bushes covered with a bluish froth of blooms.

The red blooms of *Echinocactus triglochidiatus* var. *mojavensis*, Mojave mound cactus, were frequent on the dark south-facing walls of Payson Canyon, White Mountains, the first week of May. A few plants of *Astragalus coccineus*, scarlet loco, were still in bloom then in the narrows of the Westgard Road.

## FIELD TRIPS

**MAY 26:** Joshua Flat, Inyo Mountains. Leader: Doris Fredendall, assisted by Mary DeDecker. Meet at 9:00 a.m. toward crest of the Inyo Mountains on the northern route to Death Valley, where the Saline Valley road turns off to the right. (Leave Highway 395 at the Triangle Campground north of Big Pine where Highway 168 comes in from the east. Drive east 2.3 miles and turn right. It is 15.3 miles from Big Pine to the meeting site.

we will not find the abundance of blooms which are normal for Joshua Flat, but we will see perennials, including cactus. The road up the canyon will be lined with Bush sunflower (*Encelis virginensis* ssp. *actonii*) and apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*). With them will be an occasional red flash of Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*) and a few wands of the rose-colored Austin penstemon (*Penstemon nanus* var. *austini*).

**June 9:** As a followup to the May 30 meeting we will meet with Barry Freeman, Mono District Timber Officer, at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of US 395 and Logging Camp Road, about 2.5 miles north of Crestview Station. We will visit areas which have been harvested by several cutting methods and see areas that are regenerating through planting and natural reseeding. Sensitive plant sites will be visited also.

**JUNE 23-24:** Wyman Canyon, White Mountains. Leaders: Paul and Mary DeDecker. Participants must have 4-wheel-drive vehicles with high clearance, and must be approved by the leaders. Call 619/878-2389. Take drinking water and be prepared for primitive camping. It could be chilly, even in June. Meet at Schulman Grove at 10:00 a.m. There should be interesting and unusual plants.

**July 7:** Green Lake (11,100 ft.) Bishop Creek. Leaders: Pat and Jack Crowther. A subalpine botany walk. Meet Saturday, 8:00 a.m. at the South Lake parking lot, 22 miles west of Bishop via Highway 168. We will be hiking about 7 miles round trip with a gain of 1300 ft. in elevation. Bring lunch, sunscren, and good walking shoes. Hopefully we will need insect repellent. Suggestion: Be equipped with a copy of A Bishop Creek Plant List by Pat and Jack.

**Later trips to be announced in a future issue.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

"CHARCOAL" CANYON, LAST CHANCE RANGE, MARCH 17.

We climbed the fan to "Charcoal" Canyon over a rocky track through a sparse cover of dry burro-bush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), yellow-dry cheese-bush (*Hymenoclea salsola*), and creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*). Any plant with a few green leaves was cause for jubilation on this 4th year of drouth. Pads of beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*) were scarred and wrinkled, silver cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*) was definitely under stress, and we wondered if Engelmann cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) would survive the year. There were a few clumps of cottontop cactus (*Echinocactus polycephalus*) which were apparently thriving, but there were also collapsed plants, long gone. Thwen we found a tangle of white stems of ground-cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*) sheltering a thick pad of its papery seed cases - hope for another year. The inner canyon growth was dominated by large dry bushes of bush sunflower (*Encelia*

*virginensis* ssp. *actonii*) and golden-eye (*Viguiera reticulata*) just starting new leaves.

A mile up the charcoal-colored canyon, at the contact point between black and yellow hills, an unknown miner had spent considerable time and money to develop his claim, abandoned now. We lunched on his terrace, near the decrepit rock and dirt shelter, gazing out over the canyon to the Saline Range across Eureka Valley.

Plants in bloom would have added much to this day's hike but "dry plant botany" can be very satisfying in the vast expanse of desert, with lizards scurrying underfoot and ravens soaring in a clear blue sky.

..... Mary Beth Cooke

## DARWIN FALLS, ARGUS RANGE, APRIL 7.

On a beautiful Saturday morning about 25 members and friends met at Panamint Springs and proceeded to the parking area in Darwin Wash to begin our trek to the lower falls.

On the way up the wash we were surprised by the number of perennials in bloom, although only a few annuals, mostly along the stream course in the wash. The flow seemed fairly normal, in spite of the long drought.

We interrupted our botanizing to attack the plentiful tamarisk shoots. Must have pulled thousands. The length of their roots was amazing - often over two feet long for a 6-inch seedling. In spite of our efforts, many thousands remain, soon to be augmented by seeds from the blooming thickets up stream. Total tamarisk eradication here would require a major effort by BLM as a special project.

Highlight of the trip was the discovery of a 3-inch *Mammillaria tetrandista*, a small, rounded cactus with hooked spines.

The beautiful little Darwin Falls creates a refreshing oasis of vegetation, confined by high cliffs. It is a place to visit again and again.

..... Vince Yoder

(See the plant list on pages 4 to 6.)

## CONSERVATION CORNER

So Earth Day has come and gone. Although our Chapter did not participate in any organized activity, members were free to join local groups to celebrate this 20th anniversary--plant trees, pull weeds and tamarisk, join a group party or picnic, etc.

As I reflect upon the nationwide activities, I'm not so sure that the environment fared so well from them. Lots of fuel was burned getting somewhere, lots of garbage generated at gatherings to attend an event or ~~do~~ something, all of which ended up as big media event.

My inclination was to stay at home, work in the garden, pull weeds, contemplate on ways to save energy and help simplify our existence. An awful lot of pollution is generated just because we are so itchy to ~~do~~ something that we spend a lot of time just spinning our wheels.

Enough is enough already. Let's ration our impulses and stay at home on Earth Day next time and see how we feel about **that**.

..... Vince Yoder

**DARWIN WASH PLANT LIST FROM PARKING LOT TO LOWER FALLS**

Compiled by Vince Yoder, Doris Fredendall, and Mary DeDecker

## ADANTIACEAE

*Adiantum capillus-veneris**Notholaena parryi*

## AMARANTHACEAE

*Tidestromia oblongifolia*

## APIACEAE

*Apium graveolaens*

## ASTERACEAE

*Ambrosia acanthicarpa**Amrosia dumosa**Artemisia tridentata**Atrichoseris platyphylla**Baccharis glutinosa**Bebbia juncea**Brickellia arguta**Brickellia multiflora**Cheanactis carphoclinia**Chrysothamnus nauseosus**Chrysothamnus paniculatus**Conyza canadensis**Encelia farinosa**Encelisa virginensis* ssp. *actoni**Gnaphalium chilense**Gutierrezia microcephala**Gutierrezia sarothrae**Holmeisteria pluriseta**Hymenoclea salsola**Monoptilon bellioides**Paucephyllum schottii**Senecio douglasii* var. *monaensis**Solidago spectabilis**Sonchus asper**Stephanomeria tenuifolia* var. *myrioclada**Stephanomeria pauciflora**Viguiera reticulata**Xylorhiza tortifolia*

## BETULACEAE

*Betula occidentalis*

## BORAGINACEAE

*Amsinckia tessellata**Cryptantha circumscissa**Cryptantha confertiflora**Cryptantha costata**Cryptantha micrantha**Cryptantha pterocarya**Cryptantha racemosa*

## BRASSICACEAE

*Caulanthus cooperi**Descurainia pinnata**Descurainia sophia*Fern Family

Venus-hair fern

Parry cloak fern

Amaranth Family

Honeysweet

Parsley Family

Celery

Sunflower Family

Sand-bur

Burro-bush

Big sagebrush

Gravel ghost

Water-wally

Sweet bush

Pungent brickellbush

Inyo brickellbush

Pebble pincushion

Rabbitbrush

Wash rabbitbrush

Horse-weed

Brittle bush

Bush sunflower

Cudweed

Matchweed

Snakeweed

Arrow-leaf

Cheesebush

Desert-star

Pigmy cedar

Mono senecio

Basin goldenrod

Prickly sow-thistle

Pink milk-aster

Desert milk-aster

Golden-eye

Mojave aster

Birch Family

Water birch

Borage Family

Fiddleneck

Capped cryptantha

Golden forget-me-not

Ashen forget-me-not

Purple-rooted forget-me-not

Wing-nut cryptantha

Bushy cryptantha

Mustard Family

Cooper caulanthus

Tansy mustard

Flixweed

<i>Lepidium fremontii</i>	Bush peppergrass
<i>Lepidium lasiocarpum</i> var. <i>georginum</i>	Modest peppergrass
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water-cress
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	Desert plume
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tumble mustard
<i>Streptanthella longirostris</i>	Streptanthella
<b>CACTACEAE</b>	<u>Cactus Family</u>
<i>Echinocactus polycephalus</i>	Cottontop cactus
<i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i>	Torch cactus
<i>Mammillaria tetrancistra</i>	Little fishhook cactus
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	Beavertail cactus
<i>Opuntia echinocarpa</i>	Cholla
<b>CHENOPODIACEAE</b>	<u>Goosefoot Family</u>
<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	Shadscale
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Four-wing saltbush
<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>	Allscale
<i>Salsola paulsenii</i>	Barbwire thistle
<b>CURCUBITACEAE</b>	<u>Gourd family</u>
<i>Curcubita palmata</i>	Coyote melon
<b>CYPERACEAE</b>	<u>Sedge Family</u>
<i>Scirpus americanus</i>	Olney threesquare
<b>EPHEDRACEAE</b>	<u>Ephedra Family</u>
<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	Nevada ephedra
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>	<u>Spurge Family</u>
<i>Chamaesyce parishii</i>	Parish spurge
<b>FABACEAE</b>	<u>Pea Family</u>
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>fremontii</i>	Paper-pod
<i>Lupinus odoratus</i>	Royal desert lupine
<i>Psoralethamnus arborescens</i> var. <i>minutifolius</i>	Indigo bush
<b>GERANIACEAE</b>	<u>Geranium Family</u>
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Red-stemmed filaree
<b>HYDROPHYLLACEAE</b>	<u>Water leaf Family</u>
<i>Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia</i> var. <i>bipinnatifida</i>	Spotted eucrypta
<i>Nama demissum</i>	Purple mat
<i>Phacelia crenulata</i>	Purple phacelia
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Blue phacelia
<b>JUNCACEAE</b>	<u>Rush Family</u>
<i>Juncus xiphioides</i>	Iris-leaved rush
<b>LAMIACEAE</b>	<u>Mint Family</u>
<i>Stachys albens</i>	White hedge-nettle
<b>LOASACEAE</b>	<u>Loasa Family</u>
<i>Euclide urens</i>	Rock nettle
<i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i>	Little blazing star
<b>MALVACEAE</b>	<u>Mallow Family</u>
<i>Eremalche rotundifolia</i>	Five spot
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Apricot mallow
<b>NYCTAGINACEAE</b>	<u>Four O'clock Family</u>
<i>Anulocaulis annulata</i> ( <i>Boerhavia annulata</i> )	Sticky-ring
<i>Mirabilis bigelovii</i>	Wishbone bush
<b>ONAGRACEAE</b>	<u>Evening Primrose Family</u>
<i>Camissonia brevipes</i>	Yellow cups
<i>Camissonia cardiophylla</i> ssp. <i>robusta</i>	Heart-leaved primrose

*Comissonia claviformis* ssp. *tunerea*  
*Comissonia walkeri* ssp. *tortilis*  
*Epilobium ciliatum*

Brown-eyed primrose  
Rock primrose  
Valley epilobium

POACEAE

*Bromus rigidus*  
*Cynodon dactylon*  
*Distichlis spicata*  
*Panicum capillare*  
*Polypogon interruptus*  
*Polypogon monspeliensis*  
*Stipa speciosa*

Grass Family

Ripgut grass  
Bermuda grass  
Saltgrass  
Witchgrass  
Ditch polypogon  
Rabbitfoot grass  
Desert needlegrass

POLEMONIACEAE

*Gilia aliquanta* ssp. *breviloba*  
*Gilia cana* ssp. *triceps*  
*Gilia cana* ssp. *speciformis*  
*Gilia latifolia*  
*Langloisia setosissima* ssp. *punctata*  
*Linanthus aureus*

Phlox Family

Modest puffed calyx gilia  
Showy gilia  
Showy gilia  
Holly gilia  
Dotted langloisia  
Golden gilia

POLYGONACEAE

*Eriogonum deflexum*  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*  
*Eriogonum inflatum*  
*Eriogonum nidularium*  
*Eriogonum rixfordii*  
*Rumex crispus*

Buckwheat Family

Skeleton weed  
California buckwheat  
Desert trumpet  
Bird's-nest buckwheat  
Pagoda buckwheat  
Curly dock

RANUNCULACEAE

*Clematis ligusticifolia*  
*Ranunculus cymbalaria*

Buttercup Family

Virgin's bower  
Desert buttercup

RUBIACEAE

*Galium stellatum*

Madder Family

Shrubby bedstraw

SALICACEAE

*Populus fremontii*  
*Salix bonplandiana* (*S. laevigata*)  
*Salix exigua*

Willow Family

Fremont poplar  
Red willow  
Narrow-leaf willow

SCROPHULARIACEAE

*Mimulus guttatus*

Figwort Family

Common monkey-flower

SOLANACEAE

*Lycium cooperi*  
*Solanum niger*

Nightshade Family

Peach thorn  
Black nightshade

TAMARICACEAE

*Tamarix ramosissima*

Tamarisk Family

Salt Cedar

TYPHACEAE

*Typha domingensis*

Cat-tail Family

Buff cat-tail

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

*Larrea tridentata*

Caltrop Family

Creosote bush

\*\*\*\*\*

**We heartily welcome the following new members:**

Judith Decker, Ridgecrest  
Scott Hetzler, Bishop  
Wally Woolfenden, Bishop

## **WATER UPDATE from WATER REPORTER by Inyo County Water Department**

by Greg James, Inyo County Counsel and Water Director (This in response to groups which have been organized on the brink of the Los Angeles-Inyo Water Agreement to oppose any effort toward an agreement.)

Much confusion still exists over the status and the future of the tentative long-term agreement between Inyo County and Los Angeles on water management in the Owens Valley. In this report Inyo County Water Director Greg James explains why he believes the County should not abandon the agreement at this time as some people desire.

### **RATIONAL PROTECTION FOR OWENS VALLEY**

"Renounce the Inyo/LA Water Agreement and immediately place the fate of the Owens Valley before the judges and justices of the courts!" "Stop the damn pumps!" "Do these things now and fire Greg James, or be forced from office!"

Such are the demands pouring in on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors from certain individuals and groups. These people see such a course of action as the only way to save the Owens Valley.

I strongly disagree. There is a better, more reasonable and rational alternative that may result in a higher level of permanent protection for this valley. And, while this alternative is being pursued, the valley is not at risk. Pumping has been drastically reduced, irrigated lands will continue to be green, and other in-valley uses will continue to be applied this fourth drouth year. If adequate protection cannot be attained in the coming months through the proposed agreement and the new environmental process, the Board of Supervisors publicly have pledged to resume the water war using every means at their disposal to seek protection of this valley's environment. This is not the time to abandon the proposed agreement.

There is no doubt that the natural conditions of this valley have been altered and diminished because of water gathering and export. Initially the Indians diverted water from streams to spread over their crops. Later, diversions were greatly expanded and canals and ditches were dug to irrigate up to 75,000 acres. At the turn of this century, Los Angeles arrived on the scene, built an aqueduct, and exported water out of the valley. Los Angeles then bought out the ditch companies, the farmland, the residential and commercial properties, and wound up owning virtually the entire valley.

When export of the surface water was no longer enough for its needs, Los Angeles built a second aqueduct and began pumping water from beneath the valley. Although there were many bitter and prolonged fights over the years, it was not until 1972 that the Inyo County government formally sued Los Angeles over the impacts of its groundwater pumping and surface water gathering for the second aqueduct.

Following more than a decade of litigation, it became apparent that Los Angeles finally was willing to enter into serious discussions with the County over protection for the valley's environment and joint water management. As a result, in 1984 Los Angeles and Inyo County agreed to a historic four-year truce during which time groundwater pumping would be jointly managed, irrigation and other in-valley uses maintained, certain mitigation measures implemented, water rates for Los Angeles owned town water systems reduced, and impartial environmental studies conducted. The overall goal of the interim agreement was the development of a long-term water management plan.

Under this interim agreement, the effects of Los Angeles' groundwater pumping and other activities on the environment of Owens Valley have been extensively researched and studied. The study results draw upon the expertise of many participants including U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, researchers and professors from several universities, other agencies, Los Angeles, and Inyo County. The County and Los Angeles have used the study results in hammering out a proposed agreement which provides for a sustainable and improved valley environment. It is hard to believe in view of the history, but Los Angeles has indeed made an initial commitment to an enforceable agreement that has as its primary goal the protection of the valley-floor vegetation and in-valley water users, as well as the avoidance of groundwater mining, the restoration of approximately 50 miles of the Lower Owens River, improvement of county parks and campgrounds, return of the water systems to local control, reopening water supply ditches in Big Pine and releasing limited amounts of Los Angeles-owned land for public and private use.

**To be continued in the July issue.** The Bristlecone Chapter supports the concept of a water agreement and fully appreciates Greg James as a capable and conscientious public servant. Our members will continue to give input as negotiations progress and the EIR is reviewed.

**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  
\_\_\_\_\_ Life, Individual 450  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting 50  
\_\_\_\_\_ Household 30  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual or Library 18  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student or Retired 12  
\_\_\_\_\_ Retired Couple 15

I wish to be affiliated with the  
Bristlecone Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

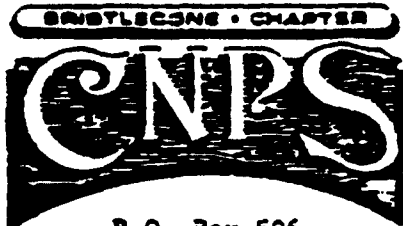
Please make check payable to:  
California Native Plant Society

Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS  
P.O. Box 506  
Independence, CA 93526

GIFT contribution: Where most  
needed \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

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



P.O. Box 506  
140 West Pavilion Street  
Independence, CA 93526

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
INDEPENDENCE  
CALIF. 93526  
PERMIT NO. 7