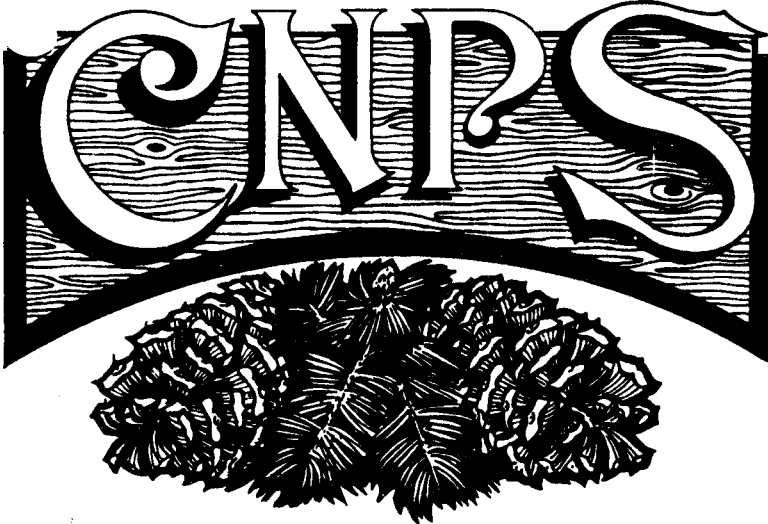


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

**BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER**



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 5

September 1991

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

September 25, 1991, at the home of Evelyn Mae and Al Nikolaus, 315 Clay Street, Independence. It will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dessert will be supplied. The program will be member's slides. Bring up to 10 of your own favorite or meaningful shots.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

It is time to limber up our writing tools and skills again as our legislators return from vacation and the Desert Protection Act works its way up the agenda.

Many of you are aware that despite the efforts of our members, once again the Inyo County Board of Supervisors have retreated to the past and have endorsed the version of a desert act which does the least for preserving the desert. They seem to feel that some marvelous economic wonder is going to be discovered that has not already been filed upon for mining. Under the Cranston version, any existing mines would not be affected, just new development.

One hundred and twenty years ago, when mineral exploration was done with the aid of a four-footed animal, it was necessary to encourage desert exploration with generous mining laws. Today such exploration is done with a motor vehicle that leaves tracks lasting for years, in contrast to the animal tracks which last only for days. It is questionable, at best, that unlocated, strategic, paying deposits still exist. Is this vague possibility reason enough to leave our desert unprotected? What of other values? Let your legislators know how you want them to vote on this important issue.

. . . . . Evelyn Mae Nikolaus

\* \* \* \* \*

By the time you receive this newsletter our bristlecone Green Thumbs will have met to discuss their needs for cultivating native materials in our home environment. All are welcome, especially those who have any knowledge on how to persuade natives to thrive in places they haven't had enough evolutionary time to reach. Contact Evelyn Mae Nikolaus (878-2149) or Ray and Bette Sisson (876-5841) to learn when the next gathering will be, or better yet, be at the September chapter meeting.

## 1991 FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER 14. BISHOP CREEK.** Leader: Mark Bagley. Several stops will be made to look at the elevational changes in plant communities as we travel up from Bishop to Lake Sabrina (at 9700 feet). Meet at 9:00 am Saturday in the Home Street School parking lot, on the corner of West Line St. and Home St. in Bishop. Easy walking.

**OCTOBER 5. LOWER OWENS RIVER.** Leader: Sally Manning. We will visit a variety of habitats which occur along the river between Independence and Keeler Bridge. Meet at 9:00 Saturday morning, at the roadside park along Highway 395 at the south end of Independence. Easy walking.

These trips will last until 3 or 4 pm. Bring lunch and plenty of water, sturdy walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen, etc. Please no pets. The average car will do fine on these trips. Contact Mark Bagley, field trip chairman, at 873-5326, for more information.

These will be the last field trips of the year. Thank you to all those who helped organize and lead all the great trips we have had this year. We'll be looking forward to a wet winter and more exciting trips next spring.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MISCELLANEOUS

From Membership Chairman, KC Wiley: Our updates on membership and those of the state office do not coincide. That of the state reaches us a few weeks after our newsletter comes out. Please allow a little time before becoming upset over your expiration date. But we do want to know in case we make any long term errors.

From your editor: Deadline for the next newsletter is November 2. We appreciate any contributions from you, but do need to receive them on time.

From your Nominating Committee: We have decided to continue another year with the same conscientious team of officers and are pleased that all have agreed to accept. They are:

President	Evelyn Mae Nikolaus
Vice-President	Carla Scheidlinger
Secretary	Sara Manning
Treasurer	Scott Hetzler

The election of officers will be at the November meeting.

From our Vice-President, Carla Scheidlinger: I have agreed to take over the editorship of the Waucoba News, a newsletter issued by the Bishop Museum and Historical Society. It was founded by the late Enid Larson and was devoted to the natural history of the Eastern Sierra. Copies of the newsletter will be received by members of the above in the fall mailing. Future issues will appear quarterly.

I would greatly appreciate any news of plants, wildlife, or other items of local natural history interest for inclusion in the Waucoba News. If you have information you would like to share, contact me at 393 Mt. Tom Road, Bishop, CA 93514 or call 873-8439.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

May 18 - WESTGARD PASS. A group of about 18 members and visitors from points west gathered at the Triangle Campground north of Big Pine and received a 10-page checklist from leader, Doris Fredendall of the plants we could expect to see that day on our trip over Westgard Pass. Anyone who has not been in a sort of a Rip Van Winkle-like sleep cannot have failed to notice that, thanks to the March rains, the wildflower display this spring in the Owens Valley region was the best in many years, so our expectations were high.

Doris had carefully planned a number of stops designed to show off some particular species of interest. Just as the road begins to ascend out of the valley, we found a lovely population of yellow-eyes, *Lupinus flavoculatus*. Further up the road, Doris pointed out an individual of the wash rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus paniculatus*, which reaches the northern limit of its range in this area. The desert paintbrush, *Castilleja chromosa*, was especially showy on the way up the pass.

We stopped for lunch on the east side of Westgard Pass, and selected a vantage point from where we could enjoy the sight of the vermilion blooms of mound cactus, *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*, which was abundant just below the Payson Canyon narrows. But perhaps the best treat of all was the spectacular display of the bright orange desert mariposa, *Calochortus kennedyi* that decorated the desert pavement of the fans just above Deep Springs Valley.

There were any number of other species of wildflowers observed, exclaimed over, and photographed during the course of the day. By the time I drove home, I had 89 species checked off from my list - and those were just the ones I had troubled myself to note!

..... Carla Scheidlinger

June 8, 9 - HUNTER MOUNTAIN. Mary and Paul DeDecker led a caravan of 11 cars north from Highway 190, on the Darwin Plateau, onto the pot-holed Saline Valley Road. An early stop was made on Lee Flat to see *Cymopterus riplei*, a rare waif from Nevada, camouflaged on the dry pale soil and trampled by cattle. From here on we traveled on an excellent dirt road. As we moved into the Nelson Range a stop was made beside a rubble-strewn hillside where several small globes of fishhook cactus, *Scleroactis polyancistrus* bore brilliant blooms among spring annuals. The eye-catching vermilion of desert mariposa, *Calochortus kennedyi*, called for a third a stop as we ascended the Nelson Range. Soon we were in a Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and a tempting place caused us to decide that it was time for lunch.

From there we traversed the cliff-hanging road at the head of Panamint Valley, which gave us the most dramatic view for the day, and crossed Grapevine Canyon to Hunter Mountain. Our route took us over high, open country, with expanses of Sagebrush Scrub to Pinyon-Juniper Woodland. Eventually we came to an electric fence which marks the boundary of Death Valley National Monument, its purpose to prevent cattle from trespassing to a spring area on park land. The remainder of the mountain is managed by BLM. The shrub area was dotted with white blooms of Panamint mariposa, *Calochortus panamintensis*. We crawled under the fence and wandered down into the 1985 burn area to check on its recovery. It has been good, especially in the drainage areas. Shrubs on the drier slopes are crown-sprouting and a few pinyon seedlings were noted. Then we returned to our pinyon campsite for supper and evening chit-chat. Part of the group left to return home before dark.

Next morning the smaller group, in vehicles, followed Mary and Paul over the cattleguard into the National Monument again. A good bloom stop was made on a narrow ridge of the Cottonwood Mountains. We were impressed by the magnificent lupine, *Lupinus magnificus* var. *magnificus*, noted the woolly pods of Newberry milk-vetch, *Astragalus newberryi*, and admired a new (to us) milkweed, *Asclepias vestita* ssp. *parishii*. The view was tremendous. From here the grades were steep and the road narrow, changing from one canyon to another. The dry slopes were colorful with Hop-sage, *Grayia spinosa* and showy goldenbush, *Ericameria linearifolia*.

At last we came to the old mining camp, Goldbelt Springs, which was our destination. It called for some fun photography. A short walk took us to the spring located in a small grotto and shielded by a dense growth of wild roses. Birds had flown in alarm from that cool haven as we approached.

Ray and I left the group here, with permission of the leaders, electing to return home by way of Tea Kettle Junction to reach the route directly into Big Pine. The others retraced their route up the steep grades to the campsite and thence on to their various homes, no doubt with more flower stops along the way.

..... Doris Fredendall

June 29-30 - FISH SLOUGH. Reported in July issue.

July 13 - WHITE-INYO MOUNTAINS. About 50 CNPS members and guests participated in this geology/botany field trip from Big Pine to Cedar Flat, and on as far as Deep Springs Valley. Leaders were UCLA professor emeritus of geology, Dr. Clem Nelson, and Mary DeDecker, an expert on the Inyo-Mono flora.

The trip began with an extensive presentation by DR. Nelson on the geologic history of the area. This was illustrated by his geologic map which he used throughout the trip to show the various formations in this Basin and Range province. Mary DeDecker gave a brief description of plant communities we would see and passed out a plant list of expected vegetation.

At the first stop on the valley floor Dr. Nelson explained the Poleta and Campito sandstone formations of Cambrian marine shelf on which limestone was deposited. Mary pointed out introduced, weedy species, including the dangerous *Haloxylon glomeratus* which California has hoped to keep from becoming established in this state. The next stop was at the site of the old toll house. At the spring above, the tall yellow evening primrose, *Oenothera hookeri*, and California loosestrife, *Lythrum californicum*, were still blooming, and we even found a few stream orchids, *Epipactis gigantea* to show the group. Across the highway in the wash we found a few budding shrubs of *Lepidospartum latisquamum* in the guise of rabbitbrush. Then we caravanned on up through Pinyon-Juniper Woodland to stop at the Sierra Outlook, 9280 feet in elevation. It provided a great view of the Sierra Nevada from Mt. Whitney to Mt. Dana. We appreciated having Dr. Nelson present to explain it all to us. Then on to Schulman Grove in the Bristlecone Pine Forest where we had our picnic. We heard the interpretive naturalist give an interesting talk about the forest. Mary explained the difference between the two pines present, bristlecone pine, *Pinus longaeva*, and limberpine, *Pinus flexilis*.

The group then proceeded back to Highway 168 on Cedar Flat and caravanned to a point overlooking Deep Springs Valley and the Poleta folds which called for an explanation from Dr. Nelson. Among other things, he told us that the 1872 earthquake had lifted the Sierra Nevada 12 feet vertically and moved it horizontally 20 feet. He went on to explain the geologic features of the Deep Springs area. The wildflowers there were long gone (See the field trip report for the

May 18 trip.) but we did recognize many of the desert shrubs. A short trip back through Cedar Flat took us to a fossil location. We looked for and found quite a few Trilobites and Helioceras, both indicator fossils of Cambrian marine deposits.

It was hard to break away but the day was ending. We had run out of time for more geology and could only glimpse the flowers we passed en route down the canyon.

.....Tina Kasbeer

August 3 - EMERALD LAKE. This was a beautiful riparian walk. The trail was immediately adjacent to Coldwater Creek virtually all the way from the ample trailhead parking at the end of Coldwater Campground to the lake. The plant list handed out by Diane Payne, the leader, was impressive, consisting of 24 families with three more added on the walk. We added 12 more species to the list of 54. All in all, a fruitful day, especially for those of us who concentrate on desert environs and seldom get up into the high Sierra.

Some of the treats included swamp onion, *Allium validum*, Golden brodia, *Triteleia ixioides* var. *analina*; Brewer angelica, *Angelica breweri*; cow-parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum*; groundsels, *Senecio* species; Goldenrods, *Solidago* sp., twinberry, *Lonicera involucrata*; blue elderberry, *Sambucus caerulea*; ross sedge, *Carex rossii*; pine mat manzanita, *Arctostaphylos nevadensis*; Labrador tea, *Ledum glandulosum californicum*; Sierra rein orchid, *Platanthera dilatata*; red fir, *Abies magnifica*; mountain hemlock, *Tsuga mertensiana*; Jeffrey shooting star, *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*; one-sided wintergreen, *Pyrola secunda*; monkshood, *Aconitum columbianum*; red columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*; Fendler meadow-rue, *Thalictrum fendleri*; Brewer miterwort, *Mitella breweri*; brook saxifrage, *Saxifraga punctata*; a paintbrush, *Castilleja*; and several species of monkey flower, *Mimulus*; and speedwell, *Veronica*. There were also elephantheads, *Pedicularis groenlandica*; and mountain pride, *Penstemon newberryi* along the damp banks of the stream.

The walk ended at Emerald Lake where we ate mosquitos for lunch-- or was it the other way around?

This was a special treat, walking along a rushing mountain stream in the midst of a 5-year drought. Many thanks to you, Diane--We needed this.

..... Vince Yoder



Our new members this month are as follows:

Amy Billstrom, Oakland  
 Donald B. Constans, Big Pine  
 John R. Gibson, Fresno  
 Erik and Sunny Layman, Ridgcrest  
 Paul F. Ocker, Lancaster

WE hope to welcome you personally at our meetings or on field trips.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

Since Vince Yoder has filled my vacancy on the Inyo County Water Commission I am taking on the task of Conservation Co-chairman for the Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS, dealing with local environmental issues. I am deeply grateful that someone of Vince's caliber and environmental consciousness was selected to sit on the Water Commission.

As was true at this time last year, the major environmental issue facing the region at this time is the EIR on groundwater management. At this point, the document before us is the Final EIR, which means that the comments received back in January have been responded to, and certain changes made to reflect the validity of these comments. We are now in a 6-day review period that gives us the chance to look over the final version, and comment to our supervisors about its strengths and weaknesses. Comments made at this point will not be incorporated into any future document, but it is important that the supervisors get feedback about citizen views regarding the adequacy of the Final EIR before they decide whether or not to approve it.

The Final EIR consists of three volumes, each about the size of the Draft. For those of you who would like to review this document without having to wade through all 3 volumes, here is a "reader's guide" to assist you.

**Volume I:** This is probably the most important portion to review. It includes responses to a set of "master comments", which are distillations of the vast majority of comments made by citizens and agencies. In addition, this volume includes major revisions to the agreement and to the Draft EIR, and letters of responses from agencies, organizations (such as CNPS), and institutions.

**Volume II:** This is entirely letter comments and responses from individuals. The most frequent response to important comments here is to refer you to the master comment responses in Volume I.

**Volume III:** Continues letters from individuals, and the transcripts of public meetings. Also here are the appendices, which are worth looking at. They include legal opinions regarding the Hillside Decree, the LDWP grazing management program (a whole 2 pages), updated lists of sensitive plant species, and a description of the Lower Owens River Project.

Public meetings will be held to comment on the Final EIR at the end of September. The meeting in Bishop is scheduled for September 24th at 7:00 pm and in Lone Pine on September 25th also at 7:00 pm.

..... Carla Scheidlinger.



### **POLITICIANS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

**A statesman thinks about the next generation.**

**From Beaman's by Kirk Martin.**

## DROUGHT RECOVERY POLICY

One of the hardest won concessions in negotiations with Los Angeles toward the proposed water agreement was a drought recovery policy which would assure reasonable protection for Owens Valley. We quote an article on the subject from the August 14 issue of THE WATER REPORTER by the Inyo County Water Department. It presents responses in the Final EIR to public comments on the Draft EIR.

COMMENT: The Drought Recovery Policy should be strengthened to cause recovery of soil moisture to the estimated needs of the vegetation at the time it was inventoried between 1984 and 1987.

RESPONSE: The Draft EIR, on page 10-70 provides: Recognizing the experimental nature of the management and mitigation techniques, and under the severe conditions of the current drought, it has been agreed by LADWP and Inyo County to conservatively manage groundwater pumping during this drought and during a period of recovery following the drought.

LADWP and Inyo County have agreed that the following policy will govern future groundwater pumping:

*Recognizing the current extended drought, the Standing Committee establishes a policy for annual management of groundwater pumping during this drought. The goal of this policy is that soil water within the rooting zone recover to a degree sufficient so that the vegetation protection goals of the Agreement are achieved.*

*To this end, groundwater pumping during this drought, as well as the period of recovery, will be conducted in an environmentally conservative manner, taking into consideration soil water, water tables and vegetation conditions.*

*It is recognized that soil water in the rooting zone is naturally replenished by precipitation and from the water table. Further, soil water, water tables, and vegetation conditions will be monitored by the Technical Group to ensure that the goal of this policy is being achieved and for the purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the existing well turn-off/turn-on provisions.*

The Standing Committee has adopted the following clarification to the Drought Recovery Policy concerning the establishment of annual pumping programs:

*The purpose of this clarification is to provide guidance to the Standing Committee for establishing annual pumping programs during the current drought as well as during a period of recovery.*

*It is intended that groundwater pumping will continue to be conducted in an environmentally conservative manner as was done in the 1990-91 and 1991-92 runoff years until there has been substantial recovery in soil moisture and water conditions in areas of Types B, C, and D vegetation (as defined in the Green Book) that have been affected by groundwater pumping. The Standing Committee will establish annual pumping programs based on an evaluation of current conditions, including soil moisture level, water table depth, degree of water table recovery, soil type, vegetation conditions, the results of studies pertaining to vegetation recovery, and compliance with the goals of the Agreement.*

*It is probable that this policy will result in reduced annual pumping programs as compared to annual pumping programs based solely on soil moisture conditions.*



**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:**

\_\_\_\_ Student/retired \$18  
\_\_\_\_ Individual/library \$25  
\_\_\_\_ International \$35  
\_\_\_\_ Family or group \$35  
\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$50  
\_\_\_\_ Plant lover \$100  
\_\_\_\_ Patron \$250  
\_\_\_\_ Life \$500  
\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$500  
\_\_\_\_ Corporate \$1000

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

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to :  
California Native Plant Society

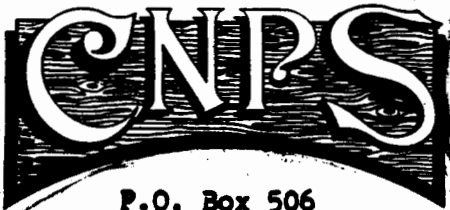
Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS  
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Independence, CA 93526

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California Native Plant Society

BRISTLECONE CHAPTER



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