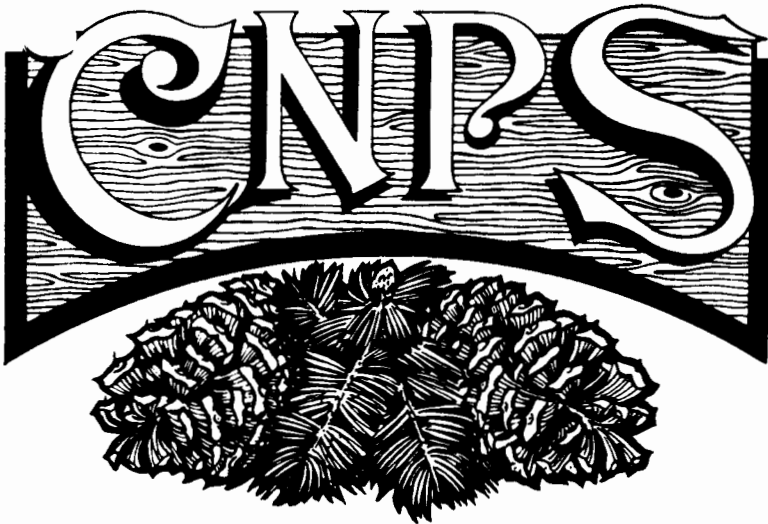


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 6

November 1991

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

And now for something really new! The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will present a program on "The Flora and fauna of Trinidad and Tobago" by Judie Tartaglia of the Inyo National Forest. Judie travelled to these exotic (and warm!) islands of the Caribbean in July of 1991, and will

share her travel stories and plenty of slides of tropical plants and creatures with us. Can you recognize tropical representatives of familiar temperate plant families? The meeting will be held at the First Methodist Church in Big Pine at 7:30, and will commence with a dessert potluck. The public is invited to this special event. For more information, call Carla Scheidlinger at 873-8439.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This issue of the Bristlecone Newsletter brings to a close another year of supporting the native plants of California. The year's end brings a period of reflection on the good of the year in both our private lives and our activities for improving living conditions.

Our chapter has been influential in the appointment of dedicated persons to several boards. The Inyo County-Los Angeles Department of Water and Power agreement has passed a milestone and proceeds to its next forum. The Desert Protection Act is still living. Our chapter has conducted a good calendar of field trips, attended by both local members and friends from afar. Speakers have stirred our brains on a variety of topics at our bimonthly meetings.

All this has been accomplished by the support of members of the Bristlecone Chapter. Stand up and take your bows!

Sincerely from your '91 President!

..... Evelyn Mae Nikolaus

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GREEN THUMBERS: The various chapters around the state have held their plant sales, and most wild seeds have fallen. The new catalogs are not out yet for domesticated seeds. Hopefully some of you have been able to harvest seeds from your favorites, ready for a new year. For those of you who missed our meeting with the seed list handout, look for copies at our November meeting or call. Some of this information may be found in Fremontia. Our next meeting has not yet been set... probably after Christmas.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Do you have a mining claim on public lands in California? If so, you must replace the white, hollow, plastic claim markers with an approved type by January 1, 1995 says a new state law. The present markers, although supposed to be capped when placed, seldom are. The hollow tubes are a deadly environmental nuisance for wildlife. A recent check by BLM revealed that up to 38% contained dead animals. Birds also fall into them and cannot get out.

Claims must now be marked with wood, stone, or solid metal markers, like in the past before white plastic was initiated. Also the new law requires that miners who abandon or give up a claim have 180 days to remove old markers or they will be removed by a governmental agency and be billed for the cost of removal.

We won't see much difference immediately but within three years these white eyesores will be gone, thanks to the Audubon Society which first discovered the problem in early 1990.

..... Vince Yoder, Co-Chairman

As you all no doubt know by now, Inyo County and Los Angeles have signed the Water Agreement. The ceremony took place in Los Angeles on October 18, 1991. Although Inyo County certified that the portion of the EIR for which they had any say--namely, the portion regarding future impacts under the Agreement--was adequate, and concurred that implementation of the Agreement would not cause any future unmitigable damage, the story is not yet over. At the last minute, Los Angeles agreed to a detailed analysis of aerial photos beginning in 1968, with the intention of better identifying vegetation types present at the beginning of the project. Any new information generated in this fashion will be incorporated into the vegetation management maps, which will be changed if necessary. This action alleviated many concerns about the city's willingness to adequately describe the pre-project vegetation conditions.

Other concerns about the first 20 years of the project, however, still remain. The comments stating that compensatory mitigation for impacted spring areas in the form of the Lower Owens River is unacceptable led Los Angeles to adopt findings of over-riding consideration to enable them to not mitigate impacts to these springs. Furthermore, cumulative impacts of the project, such as grazing, were not adequately addressed, and certain mitigation measures still appear to be inadequate. Therefore, the Bristlecone Chapter of the CNPS is prepared to submit our opinions regarding these deficiencies to the attorneys of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund for them to prepare an *amicus curae*, or "friend of the court" brief in an attempt to induce the court to insist that Los Angeles rectify these inadequacies. It is the intention of the SCLDF and also of the Owens Valley Committee (which is also considering submitting a brief) to be very clear about our approval of the Agreement, and to request that the court allow it to be implemented while still retaining some control over the contents of the Final EIR. Since 1973, the Los Angeles DWP has been under an order by the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento to prepare an adequate EIR on its groundwater pumping program to fill the second aqueduct. Two attempts were declared inadequate by that court. The present EIR is an attempt to satisfy that requirement as well as to cover the presently signed agreement. Now the agreement, as well as the EIR await a decision by that court. The agreement is not final until it is approved by the court.

On other fronts, the BLM Management plan on which our chapter commented last year has been released in its final form. This plan deals with vegetation management, rare species, and grazing programs in the region from Bodie to the Owens Lake. Copies may be obtained from the BLM offices at the Cottonwood Plaza in Bishop.

..... Carla Scheidlinger, Co-chairman

THE WATER SYMPOSIUM- September 19-20.

The University of the Eastern Sierra, as it is fondly called, has done it again! The White Mountain Research Station has conducted another of its outstanding biennial symposiums. The timely subject for this one was, *water* addressed under the following headings:

- A. Ancient seas and waterways.
- B. Climate/Climate Indicators.
- C. Water usage.
- D. Enhancement/Recovery/Protection.

Papers under the above headings were presented all day Friday and Sunday morning at the Inyo County Fairgrounds. This site was to provide more seating than is available at the station. Saturday was devoted to a field trip to Fish Slough and to the White-Inyo Range. Dr. C. A. (Clem) Nelson interpreted the geologic formations en route to the Schulman Grove interpretive site. There we were amazed to find a sumptuous luncheon laid out for us on long tables. We stayed to hear Lynna Walker's informative talk on the bristlecone Pine before returning to the White Mountain Research Station on East Line Street.

A large white tent had been erected for the banquet that evening. The Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra played Handel's "Water Music Suite" to set the mood. It was a glorious fall evening conducive to the friendly enthusiasm which prevailed. Award ceremonies followed the excellent dinner. Many staff members and officials involved in the research program were honored. There was considerable suspense until the winner of the \$1000 award for the best student paper was announced. The prize went to Robert Jellison, a resident of Bishop, who spoke on research at Mono Lake. Upon receiving it he announced that he intended to give half of it to the Mono Lake Committee and half to the Sierra Club for water related work. After more suspense, three medallions were presented by U. C. President William Frazer to local residents for distinguished contributions to science and biological research. These went to Dr. Clem Nelson of Bishop, Professor Emeritus of Geology at UCLA, who had studied the White-Inyo Range and conducted field classes there for many years; to Mary DeDecker of Independence for her sharing of knowledge of the flora of the region; and to Phil Pister, a 34-year fisheries biologist for the Department of Fish and Game, one who is best known for his defense of the pupfish. These awards might be said to be recognition of the recipient's devotion to this remarkable region. The closing highlight was a stimulating talk by Marc Reisner, keynote speaker. Mr. Reisner is best known as the author of Cadillac Desert, a classic on western water. His two later books are Overtapped Oasis and Game Wars.

This was the fourth of semiannual symposiums, beginning in 1985. Books of the proceedings of each one are published and available through the Research Station. They furnish excellent reference material. We can look forward to another outstanding event in 1993.

Local headquarters for the White Mountain Research Station are on east Line Street (4100 feet in elevation), out from Bishop, east of the Owens River. Other stations, including laboratory and residence facilities, are at Crooked Creek (10,150 feet), Barcroft (12,005 feet), and the Summit Station (14,250 feet). The research program is headed by Dr. Clarence A. Hall, Jr., who also heads the Department of Geology at UCLA. Dr. Hall is devoted to encouraging research in the various fields of the natural sciences. He and his outstanding staff have created a remarkable spirit of camaraderie in this center of learning. The research station was created in 1950 as a multi-campus research station of the University of California. more than 1000 researchers use the facilities each year. For more information on the White Mountain Research Station call (619) 873-4344 to speak with Elizabeth Phillips, Secretary, or David Trydahl, Superintendent of the physical plant. Or in Los Angeles call (213) 815-2093 and speak to Vicki Doyle-Jones in the office at UCLA.

. Mary DeDecker

BISHOP CREEK DRAINAGE PLANT LIST- Pat and Jack Crowther
May 20, 1991 Additions and Deletions

ADD THE FOLLOWING:

ASPLENIACEAE - Shield Fern Family.

Woodsia scopulina - Rocky Mountain woodsia

ASTERACEAE - Sunflower Family.

Arnica longifolia SSP. *myriadenia*- Seep-spring Arnica

Artemisia ludoviciana SSP. *ludoviciana*- Western mugwort

Aster hesperius- Marsh aster

Heterotheca breweri (formerly *Chrysopsis breweri*) - Golden aster

Erigeron divergens- Pastel daisy

Gnaphalium palustre- Cudweed

Xanthium strumarium var. *canadensis*- Cocklebur

BORAGINACEAE - Borage Family.

Hackelia nervosa- Sierra stickseed

Pectocarya penicillata- Slender combseed

BRASSICACEAE - Mustard Family.

Descurainia pinnata- Tansy mustard (Left off book)

Lepidium campestre - Cow cress

Lepidium virginicum- Tall peppergrass

Rorippa curvisiliqua- Western yellow-cress

CARYOPHYLLACEAE - Pink Family.

Minuartia nuttallii ssp. *gracilis* (formerly *Arenaria nuttallii* ssp. *gracilis* - Nuttall sandwort

CHENOPODIACEAE - Goosefoot Family.

Kochia scoparia- Summer cypress

CYPERACEAE - Sedge Family.

Carex disperma - Soft-leaved sedge

Eleocharis macrostachya (formerly *Eleocharis palustris*) - Pale spike-rush

FABACEAE - Pea Family.

Astragalus Whitneyi- Whitney Milk-vetch (Left off book)

Lupinus argenteus var. *montigenus* - Pumice forest lupine

Mellilotus officinalis- Tall yellow sweet clover

Trifolium pratense- Red clover

LILIACEAE - Lily Family.

Dichelostemma pulchellum - Blue dick

POACEAE - Grass Family.

- Agropyron trichophorum* - Intermediate wheat grass
- Agrostis scabra* - Ticklegrass
- Agrostis stolonifera* Var. *major* - Redtop
- Alopecurus aequalis* - Short-awn foxtail
- Poa rupicola* - Timberline bluegrass
- Setaria glauca* - Yellow bristlegrass
- Sorghum halopense* - Johnsongrass

POLYGONACEAE - Buckwheat Family.

- Persicarya punctata* (formerly *Polygonum punctatum*) - Lady's thumb

PRIMULACEAE - Primrose Family.

- Dodecatheon alpinum* - Alpine shooting star.

ROSACEAE - Rose Family.

- Potentilla biennis* - Green cinquefoil
- Potentilla breweri* - Brewer cinquefoil

SOLANACEAE - Nightshade Family.

- Datura innoxia* - Jimsonweed

DELETE

Polemonium pulcherrinum - Showy polemonium (POLEMONIACEAE)

* * * * *

The California Oak Foundation announces three new publications, Oaks of California by Bruce Pavlik, Pam Muick and Sharon Johnson. Illustrated with color photogtaphy and artwork throughout.

Compatible Plants Under and Around Oaks, by Bruce Hagen, Barrie Coate and Keith Oldham. Landscaping without jeopardizing the health of the oaks.

Seed to Seedling by Kay antunez de MAYolo. Gives children a hands-on learning experience.

Oaks of California, hardback copy: \$25.00 plus local sales tax
softback copy \$18.00 plus local sales tax

Compatible Plants , \$10.00 plus local sales tax

Seed to Seedling, \$10.00 plus local sales tax.

909 12th Street, Suite 125, Sacramento, CA 95814

Shipping \$200 for first book, \$1.00 for each additional book.



SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANTS TO TRY IN NATIVE GARDENS OF OWENS VALLEY

SHRUBS

Artemisia tridentata. Big sagebrush. (Asteraceae) Evergreen. Readily grows from seed. Might be used as an interim plant until slower species become established.

Ericameria cooperi = Haplopappus cooperi. (Asteraceae) Cooper goldenbush. Low shrub, 8-24 inches high; yellow flowers in spring and early summer; common on alluvial fans. Requires well drained soil. Would make an attractive border along the street side. No irrigation needed when once established.

Atriplex canescens. Four-wing saltbrush. (Chenopodiaceae) Large, rounded evergreen shrub, 4-8 feet high, gray. Four-wing fruit is persistent, resembles popcorn when dry. Be sure to include a male shrub.

Atriplex confertifolia. Shadscale. (Chenopodiaceae) Low evergreen shrub, about 1 foot high, gray-green. Is attractive when grown in a garden. Both male and female plants should be used to get the colorful fruits which vary from flesh color to rose-red. Would make a good accent plant to use with Cooper goldenbush.

Encelia virginensis ssp. actoni. Brittlebush or bush sunflower. (Asteraceae) Low gray-green shrub with flowering stems rising above the bush. Flowers yellow. May invade from desert where it occurs. Readily reseeds. Requires little or no water.

Grayia spinosa. Hopsage. (Chenopodiaceae). Attractive shrub 1 to 2 feet high, young leaves frosted green, flowers have no petals but yellow calyx lobes. Fruit is colorful, similar to that of shadscale.

Lupinus excubitus. Bush lupine. (Fabaceae) A handsome shrubby lupine, deciduous. Flowers blue to violet or orchid. Start from seedlings in semishade, but will want full sun later. Once established they bloom for years.

Psoralea argophylla var. minutifolia. Indigo bush. (Fabaceae) Deciduous, 2-4 feet high, intricately branched, slow growing but worth waiting for. Flowers indigo blue to violet. Start from seedlings, but get the entire, very long root.

Symphoricarpos longiflorus. Desert snowberry. (Caprifoliaceae). Spreading branches, an open, evergreen shrub, 2 to 4 feet tall, which may want partial shade. The small tubular flowers are pink, to deep pink or lavender.

Cercocarpus ledifolius. Mountain mahogany. (Rosaceae) Evergreen, dark green, shrub or small tree. Slow growing but may become very large. Start from very small seedlings but be sure to get entire root.

Chamaebatiaria millefolium. Desert sweet or fern bush. (Rosaceae). An extremely adaptable and attractive evergreen shrub, 18 inches to 4 feet tall. Usually at higher elevations but might grow on the valley floor. Worth trying. Fernlike foliage, white flowers.

Purshia glandulosa. Desert bitterbrush. (Rosaceae) Grows readily from seeds. Evergreen, glabrous, 3-6 feet high.

Ribes cereum. Wax current. (Saxifragaceae). Foliage turns yellow in fall; flowers greenish-white to pink, not showy, but the bright red fruit is very attractive.

Penstemon fruticiformis. Bush penstemon. (Scrophulariaceae) Foliage rather sparse, flowers large and showy, white or flesh-color.

ANNUAL OR PERNNIAL HERBS FOR COLOR AND INTEREST AMONG THE SHRUBS

Xylorhiza tortifolia. Mojave aster. (Asteraceae). Large lavender flowers.

Lupinus flavocalatus. Yellow eyes. (Fabaceae). A low, groundcover type annual lupine. Flowers violet with yellow spot on banner.

Lupinus odoratus. Royal desert Lupine. (Fabaceae). An annual lupine, similar to above, but flower stalks taller and flowers deep blue.

Sphaeralcea ambigua. Apricot mallow. (Malvaceae). A familiar roadside plant in desert ranges. Once established it reproduces abundantly.

Argemone munita ssp. rotundata. Prickly poppy. (Papaveraceae). Large white flowers and prickly foliage. Reproduces well when once established.

Eriogonum umbellatum. Sulphur flower. (Polygonaceae). Somewhat shrubby at base; 12 to 18 inches high. Flowers showy yellow. Mostly at higher elevations but worth trying on valley floor.

Penstemon floridus Rose penstemon. (Scrophulariaceae). Tall wandlike stems; opposite toothed leaves and large rose-colored flowers

Mary DeDecker



U.C. Press has recently released two books of special interest to people of this region. They are:

Natural History of the Inyo-White Region, Eastern California, edited by Clarence A. Hall, Jr. Dr. Hall is Director of the White Mountain Research Station. Many local authors are featured in interpreting the natural sciences. It contains color photos.

Western Times and Water Wars by John Walton. Dr. Walton is professor of Anthropology and Archeology at U.C. Davis. It is a study of Owens Valley from the time the first settlers came until the water agreement is being considered. Many local people are named.

We hope to have reviews on these for our next newsletter. Both books are available at local book dealers.

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 _____

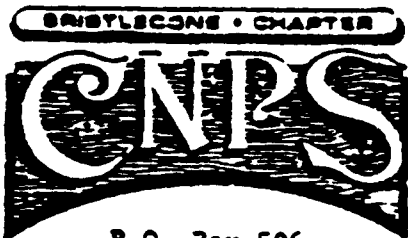
Please make check payable to :
 California Native Plant Society

Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS
 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 this chapter. Otherwise, the subscription is \$5.00 per year.
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California Native Plant Society



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9/92

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