

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

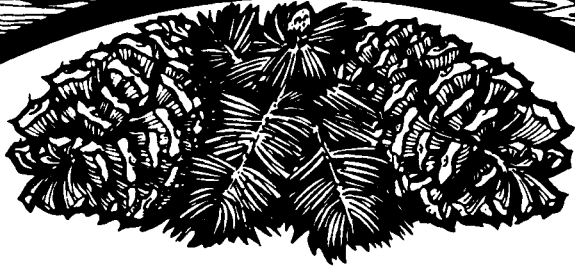


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NEXT MEETING

The May meeting will be on the 27th at 7:30 p.m. at the White Mountain Research Station on East Line Street out from Bishop. Ginny Hanna will present a program on "Yosemite, a National Park in Transition". She represents the Yosemite Fund.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Members:

Happy birthday! In the intervening period since our last newsletter we have passed the tenth anniversary of the founding meeting of our Bristlecone Chapter, March 31, 1992. Ten years of preserving and conserving the native flora of California, especially Inyo and Mono counties. Most of our fifteen charter members are still with us, some no longer as active as they were in the beginning. No matter where they are today, they founded a group that today is respected in the area. May their torch be carried far into the future. Watch for more anniversary news.

. Evelyn Mae Nikolaus

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We are always proud when one of our own is honored with the name of a new species. This one is not a plant, however, but a scorpion of high elevations. Its name is *Uroctonites giuliani*, published by Stanley C. Williams and Warren E. Savory in Pan-Pacific Entomologist 67(4) 272-287, (1991). It is included in a new genus of scorpions described by the above authors. The new species occurs in geographically isolated areas, namely in the White Mountains, Inyo Mountains, and Eastern Sierra Nevada of California from 1370-3080 m (4500-10,105 feet) elevation.

"This species is named after Derham Giuliani, a resident of Big Pine, California, in recognition of his significant collections of desert scorpions and contributions to our knowledge of desert biology".

Derham, who specializes in insects, especially beetles, is noted for his observation skills and his understanding of natural relationships. Congratulations Derham!

BRISTLECONE CHAPTER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

MAY 30. ALKALI LAKES AND MEADOWS OF LONG VALLEY. Leader: Doris Fredendall. Several rare plants occur in the meadows and sagebrush in this interesting and scenic area. Meet at 9:30 am, by the little green church at the junction of U.S. 395 and Benton Crossing Road. Easy walking.

JUNE 13. MAZOURKA CANYON, INYO MOUNTAINS. Leaders: Mary DeDecker and Clem Nelson. High clearance vehicles recommended, but not required. The road is graded dirt, often wash-boarded. Back by popular demand, we will have a combined botany and geology trip led by these noted experts on the Inyo-White Range. Meet at 9:00 am, at the new roadside park across from the rock service station just south of Independence, on the corner of Mazourka Road and U.S. 395. Easy walking.

JUNE 27. LITTLE ONION VALLEY TRAIL, SIERRA NEVADA WEST OF INDEPENDENCE. Leader: Vince Yoder. Moderate to easy walk along road and trail to Little Onion Valley. Start at about 6500 feet elevation, to about 8000 feet if we make it to the valley. Meet at 9:00 am at the northwest corner of Highway 395 and Market Street, across the street from the Independence Post Office.

JULY 11. BIRCH CREEK, BETWEEN THE BUTTERMILKS AND THE SIERRA, WEST OF BISHOP. Leader: Scott Hetzler. High clearance vehicles recommended, dirt roads much of the way. Very scenic area, where the desert meets the Sierra. 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.

JULY 25. TREASURE LAKES, BISHOP CREEK DRAINAGE. Leaders: Jack and Pat Crowther. This will be a hike through upper montane and subalpine forests. There should be quite a variety of flowers along the trail. Meet at 9:00 am at the South Lake parking area. Moderate to strenuous hike, about 6 miles roundtrip from South Lake, at elevations from 9700 to about 11,000 feet.

AUGUST 15. ARROWHEAD AND HEART LAKES, MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN. Leader: Ann Howald. Lots of wildflowers are expected in the "enriched" montane sagebrush, meadows, and along the creeks. Meet at 10:00 Saturday morning at the Coldwater Creek Campground parking area at the Duck Pass trailhead. Moderate walking, about 3 miles roundtrip, at 9000-9700 feet elevation.

AUGUST 22-23. SHEEP MOUNTAIN AND NORTH FORK OF COTTONWOOD BASIN, WHITE MOUNTAINS. Leader: Jim Morefield. High clearance vehicles for Saturday only if you want to make it a one day trip, 4-wd needed to get to Cottonwood Basin where we will go late on Saturday to a primitive camp. Meet at 8:30 Saturday morning, in Big Pine at the Triangle Campground, junction of U.S. 395 and Hwy 168. Easy walking, but we will be at 10,000-12,000 feet elevation.

SEPTEMBER 19. OWENS VALLEY. Leader: Carla Scheidlinger. Watch for details on this trip in later newsletters, or on the radio and in the newspaper the week before the trip.

OCTOBER 10. JUNE LAKE LOOP. Leader: Mark Bagley. A fall trip to an area often noted for spectacular aspen colors. Meet at 9:30 am at the June Lake Junction on Highway 395. Easy walking.

Generally, day trips last until 3 or 4 pm, while the overnight trips conclude early Sunday afternoon. Bring a lunch and drinks on a day trip. Often we are near the vehicles at lunch, but always be prepared to carry your lunch on a hike. Bring plenty of water, a hat, dark glasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, and sturdy walking shoes. Primitive camping means no facilities—bring all your own food, water and everything else.

Family, friends, and visitors are welcome to come along, but please no pets. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine on our trips. Some trips are at high elevations (above 9000 feet). These have been noted, so if you have any heart or breathing problems please consult with your doctor before coming. Car pooling is encouraged. Contact Mark Bagley, field trip chairman at 619-873-5326. for more information.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

APRIL 11-12, Funeral Mountains, Death Valley.

On a balmy spring day a joyful group of "CNPSers" wended their way into the Funeral Mountains up to the isolated Red Amphitheater just outside the Death Valley National Monument boundary. Mary DeDecker led the trip while Sally Manning (of Owens River field trip fame) was co-leader to help people identify any plants new to them. Vince Yoder brought up the rear to avoid losing any vehicles. We passed through the dramatic "Hole-in-the-wall" where an ancient river had eroded a narrow slot in the ridge of solid rock. It offered a superb view of the Funeral Mountains. Beyond that one driver did decide to retreat, due to the deep gravel.

We stopped to gawk and alongside the road marveled at the unusual *Anulocaulis annulata* (*Boerhavia annulata*) or "sticky Ring" which was first noted by F. V. Coville on The Death Valley Expedition of 1891. He had commented on its begonia-like leaves.

Widespread *Euchide urens* or "rock nettle" softened the edges of washes. Both long-jointed *Bebbia juncea*, "sweet bush" and *Peucephyllum schottii*, "desert fir" added dashes of yellow and lush green. Painted lady butterflies flocked on the desert fir and a large collared lizard flexed and froze beside a delicate *Mohavea breviflora* to the delight of photographers. *Monoptilon bellioides*, "desert star", dotted the land with a galaxy of white while *Brickellia arguta*, "pungent brickellbush" lent a citrus sweetness to rocky places. The highlight of the first day was to find other pictographs painted by Native Americans long ago in areas shaded from the afternoon sun. We wondered about their meanings and felt the area to be a sacred place.

After a social hour around a small campfire we scattered about to camp and slept bathed in warm spring winds and illuminated by moonlight diffused by clouds.

Early in the morning we were happy to welcome Mark Skinner, CNPS botanist, from Sacramento, who had driven most of the night to join us. Together we drove down the wash to investigate a side canyon. There we saw the rare *Eriogonum infrafractum*, "napkin-ring buckwheat", recognized by its characteristic rings on an old stalk. The plant was just leafing out. We also searched carefully for *Arctomecon merriamii* or "bear poppy", but

were disappointed not to find it. Mary had seen it there on previous years. Perhaps it did not survive the drought. A special treat though were the whitish bushes of *Salvia funerea* or "Death Valley sage" which were especially beautiful in the narrows at the head of the canyon.

It was delightful to finish the trip by enjoying the profusion of desert flowers on the valley floor and upwards as we left Death Valley National Monument. The trip was an inspiration, a jubilant desert display.
..... Victoria Hamilton

April 25, 1992, White Mountains, west side.

Despite the date--opening day of fishing season being traditionally cold and stormy--a group of 17 met promptly at 9:00 a.m. to begin a day of botanizing. Jim Morefield, an authority on the flora of the White Mountains, was the leader. He has recently completed his doctoral studies in botany and is now employed with The Nevada Natural Heritage Program.

After consolidating ourselves into seven vehicles we continued up Highway 6 to a dirt road turnoff at Falls Ranch, where an impromptu stop was made irresistible by spectacular displays of color. After half an hour of sorting out the *Mentzelias* and *Phacelias* we continued up the road to approximately 5,000 feet elevation. Here we spent about two hours appreciating a site not impacted by overgrazing or off-roading --a site "in the top 10%" of those most of us have experienced in the west. In addition to the flora, we enjoyed the activities of blue-gray gnatcatchers and an accomodating and spectacular leopard lizard.

For lunch we drove another mile (4WD and high clearance this time) up to the mouth of Pellisier Canyon at about 6,500 feet elevation, where we sacrificed ourselves to the *Urtica dioica*, "stinging nettle", in order to enjoy the cool and musical stream and the *Nothoaena jonesii*, Jones cloak fern, emerging from cracks in the limestone outcrops. Binocular botanizing provided a view of *Pteryxia petraea* (*Cymopterus petraeus*), "Rock Pteryxia" growing on a low angle outcrop.

After lunch we descended to just north of our pre-prandial alluvial fan, to a sandier site where we found still different species. After admiring distant views of the Falls Canyon waterfall, we bounced over a previously unexplored stretch of dirt road with thank-goodness-an-unlocked gate, back to Highway 6.

..... Lynna Walker

MORE FIELD TRIPS

Ken Howard, Marin Chapter Field Trip Chairman, send the following invitation:

July 20-22: MARIN CHAPTER CNPS. A limited number trip from Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Parks, through the Kern Plateau (This part with Jim Shevock) and ending in the Bishop area. We will be in the Bishop area July 20-22. If you are interested in all or part of this trip please call Ken Howard, 415/332-41127 before 9:00 p.m.

The Inyo National Forest sends the following message:

The Inyo National Forest is asking for help with their sensitive plant surveys. Last year we located and mapped populations of *Phacelia nashiana*, *Dedeckera eurekaensis* and *Phacelia monoensis*. That information is now available to those who make decisions regarding use of Forest Service lands. Good information is essential to making good decisions! If you want to help out, just show up at the designated meeting time and place, ready for a day in the field. Bring along the usual field trip gear: water, lunch, good walking shoes, sunscreen, hat, hand lens and field guides. You do not need to be an expert botanist - just be interested and willing to help! The schedule is as follows: (NOTE: Kathleen Nelson will be replaced by another leader.)

June 6, Cowhorn Valley. Leader: Kathleen Nelson. We will be relocating and measuring transects established in 1983 within a population of the beautiful Mohave fishhook cactus, *Sclerocactus polyancistrus*. Meet at Triangle Campground in Big Pine at 9:00 am.

July 2, Smokey Bear Flat. Leader: Richard Perloff. Map populations of the Mono milk vetch, *Astragalus monoensis*, in Smokey Bear Flat. Meet at the Mammoth Lakes Ranger Station at 9:00 am.

July 17, Sagehen Flat, White Mountains. Leader: Kathleen Nelson. Locate and map historical populations of the White Mountain horkelia, *Horkelia hispidula*. Meet at Triangle Campground in Big Pine at 9:00 pm.

August 1, Convict Lake. Leader Richard Perloff. Survey potential habitat for the scallop-leaved lousewort, *Pedicularis crenulata*, near Convict Lake campground. Meet at the green church, at the junction of Hwy. 395 and the Benton Crossing road at 9:00 am.

NOTE: Those of us who participated in these trips last year found them very enjoyable. It's fun to concentrate on one special plant.

NEW MEMBERS

David Bradney & Lisa Croft, Pineville, OR
Balin Butler & Paula Jones, Inyokern
Ted Franklin, Lone Pine
Barbara M. Garlinghouse, Mammoth Lakes
Bette Goodrich, Mammoth Lakes
Mono Basin Natural Forest Scenic Area, Lee Vining

We welcome each one of you
and look forward to your
participation!

Book Report

Irwin, Sue

California's Eastern Sierra: A Visitor's Guide

1991 144 p. Cachuma Press

Those of us living in the Eastern Sierra have waited a long time for this. We now have something current to recommend to inquiring tourists. With this book in hand, visiting friends and relatives can be sent off to explore the area.

The book is divided into eight chapters, an appendix and an index. Chapters 1 and 2 are set apart from the others by describing the whole region.

Chapter 1: Natural History of the Eastern Sierra. This is the most extensive chapter. It offers good descriptions of the Geology, Flora, Wildlife and climate. I particularly like the tables indicating location of geologic features and plant communities. Although it would have been helpful to have map and page number next to location.

Chapter 2 is the history of the Eastern Sierra. It is short but quite adequate. The book gives a brief description of Native Americans, early white exploration, mining and the water wars.

Chapters 3-8 This is the actual touring guide. It begins in the south with the Lone Pine Region and ends in the north with the Mono Lake/Bridgeport Region.

Each Chapter has a very clear map with all the features described in the accompanying text. Since this is mainly a guide for automobile touring it is nice to find cautions, suggestions, etc. regarding four wheel drive, high clearance and so on.

The guide has an abundance of photographs. Every page has at least one, and they are all beautiful. With this book you really don't need to take your own photos.

Interspersed throughout the book are more in depth articles on wildflowers, Paiute and Shoshone cultures, Golden trout, Tule elk and Big Horn sheep.

The Appendix consists of useful addresses for Museums, Forest Service offices, Chambers of Commerce, etc. It also has a bibliography for further reading.

It all ends with an index that could have been a bit more extensive. For instance, I would like to find the Owens Pupfish under just that, not under Fish.

All in all this is a welcome publication and well worth it's price.

Ulla Lipp

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CORRECTION: We apologize to Kathy Barnes for confusing her excellent book report on "Western Times and Water Wars" in the Bristlecone Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 1, the January issue. The second paragraph should have read:

"Detailed with refreshing insight is the dependence on Native American and labor by settlers unfamiliar with irrigation in arid environments. It is evident that much of the success of early homesteaders can be attributed to the cooperation of Native Americans."

* * * * *

OBSTACLES ARE WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOSE SIGHT of your goals!

Article prepared by Denyce Racine

The Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resources Area, is currently revising the Desert Access Guides (DAG) for certain areas within the desert. One area that is receiving a great deal of well-deserved attention is the southwest side of the Panamint Range, the Panamint Canyons area from Tuber Canyon in the north to Coler Wash in the south.

DAGs are maps which show the routes open for public use. Under existing management all routes are designated open unless they are posted on the ground as closed. This applies to any route whether or not it is shown on the DAG. Under the new format all routes designated as open will be shown on the DAG and any route that is not shown will not be open for public use.

The Panamint Range is one of the most spectacular mountain ranges in Inyo County. Its steep, rugged western escarpment is carved by a series of deep, rocky canyons, several of which boast dramatic waterfalls, refreshing springs, flowing streams and lush riparian vegetation. These desert riparian systems provide habitat and essential water sources for a variety of birds, reptiles, amphibians, endemic springsnails and other invertebrates, bighorn sheep, and other desert wildlife and floral species. There are at least eight sensitive species and candidates found within the planning area and in other riparian systems within the Panamints.

In the mid-1980s flash floods washed out some of the old historic mining roads. Subsequent to these washouts the lack of use and maintenance of these roads has allowed the riparian vegetation in the canyons to reestablish itself during the last few years.

Because of their relative isolation the Panamints have not received the heavy recreational use and resulting degradation of natural resources typical of other more popular areas in the southern California deserts. However, the stark beauty of this remote area has begun to draw more and more visitors wishing to experience the rewards this special place has to offer. Over the last two years a conflict has arisen over OHV use of the "designated routes" within the Panamint canyons. Tuber Canyon and Happy Canyon in particular contain well-developed riparian habitats which have begun to show damage from increased OHV use. In some locations these canyons are too narrow and rocky to accommodate both a road and a healthy riparian system. In these areas the road is in the streambed itself. In Tuber Canyon the road now runs directly through a flowing spring. Direct and indirect damage resulting from this use include cutting and removal of willows and other riparian vegetation, increased rutting and headcutting, compaction of soil, diversion of the stream out of the natural channel into wheel ruts, degradation of water quality, and a general weakening of the riparian system.

BLM has existing policies and guidelines regarding protection of riparian habitat, sensitive biological resources, and biological diversity. The intent is clear in existing BLM regulations that riparian habitats and other sensitive biological resources are to be given adequate protection from damage associated with recreational activity.

A Technical Review Team is reviewing these directives, assessing resource values within the Panamint Canyons area, and attempting to develop a plan which will allow OHV use while still protecting riparian habitats from unacceptable degradation.

Your letters to Lee Delaney are needed to encourage him to comply with Federal laws, policy, and guidelines regarding protection of riparian systems. Stress that BLM monitoring already shows a degradation of habitat quality in Tuber Canyon resulting from less than two years of increased OHV use. The road in Tuber Canyon also falls within a WSA causing it to be subject to nonimpairment criteria for lands under wilderness review. You can also mention that canyons without riparian habitat exist elsewhere in the Panamints which provide ample opportunity for OHV use and access. Please send your letter to Mr. Lee Delaney, Area Manager, BLM, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA, 93555.

Thank you.

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 _____

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Membership Category:

_____ Life, Couple	\$500	I wish to be affiliated with the
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_____ Supporting	50	Other _____
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GIFT contribution: Where most needed _____ Conservation _____

P.O. Box 506
Independence, CA 93526

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

