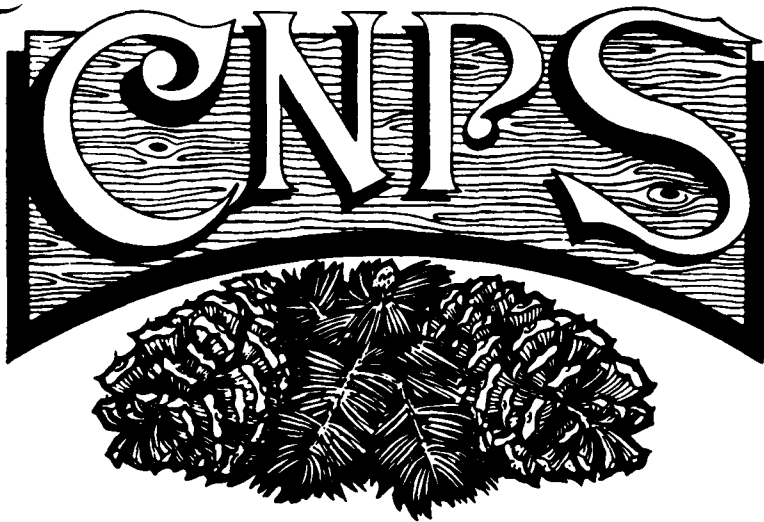


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER



Volume 13 No. 3 May 1994

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday May 17, at 7:00 pm at Doris Fredendalls residence in Big Pine.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

Wednesday May 25, at 7:30 at the Methodist Church in Big Pine.

Our hosted speaker at the May meeting will be Mike Patterson a Consultant working in conjunction with the University of California, Davis on projects related to the Owens dry lake. Mr. Patterson has had a keen interest in the challenges of Owens dry lake dust abatement and dune restoration for many years and his talk should provide current and important information regarding the progression of such projects.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Finally, after so many years of stalling and controversy, the Desert Protection Act, a major contribution to conservation has passed the Senate through the leadership of Diane Feinstein.

Our vigilance, however needs to continue to ensure that long-term preservation of natural resources supersedes short-term economic gain. Already various bills are being proposed in the state legislature to "reform" the Endangered Species Act. Some of these bills could drastically weaken the integrity and strength of this Act which is the primary means we have for protecting native species and habitats.

Our CNPS state Legislative Chairperson recommends that we support Senator Gary Hart's SB 1549 as the most thoughtful, comprehensive, reform package for CESA. Please write or call you state legislators today.

Betty Gilchrist, President

1994 Bristlecone Chapter Spring and Summer Field Trips

Please note correction in dates of May field trips.

MAY 5. Leader: Brian Miller. East of the Inyo Mountains to "Tuefel Canyon", the type locality of *Caulostramina jaegeri*, cliff dweller. Meet at 9:00 am at the Visitor's Center south of Lone Pine. If you have a 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicle, us it for this trip.

May 14. Leader: Diane Payne. A local trip to rare plant sites to see *Oryctes nevadensis* and *Sidalcea covillei*, as well as other spring blooms. Meet at 9:00 am at the White Mountain Research Station on West Line Street east of the Owens River.

MAY 28. Leader: Mary DeDecker. San Lucas Canyon and east Cerro Gordo Road on the east side of the Inyo Mountains. See the broad-shouldered milk-vetch (*Astragalus cimae* var. *sufflatus*), endemic to that east side, and other species of interest. Meet at 9:00 am at the Visitor's Center south of Lone Pine.

JUNE 4. Leader: Vince Yoder. Falls Creek, west of Olancho. Meet at 10:00 am at the Texaco gas station along Highway 395 just south of Olancho.

JUNE 25. Leader: Anne Halford. Adobe Valley and Sagehen Summit loop. This trip will begin in Adobe Valley where we will explore the wetland and meadow vegetation surrounding Black Lake and also see the most northerly population of the Inyo County star tulip (*Calochortus excavatus*). After lunch we will visit the Sagehen Summit area to see the rare Mono milk-vetch (*Astragalus monoensis*) and other pumice site endemics such as Duran's lupine (*Lupinus duranni*) and pumice Hulsea, *Hulsea vestita*. Meet in

Benton at the junction of Highways 6 and 120 at 10:00 am.

High clearance vehicles recommended.

JULY 8-10. Leader: John Dyer (NNPS). The Northern Native Plant Society has invited us to join them on a trip to the Sweetwater Mountains on these dates. It will be fun to share their trip to this outstanding range. John Dyer will scout the trip over July 4, so final plans are not yet available, but we know that it will require a 4-wheel drive, high clearance vehicle.

Call John Dyer (702) 677-2715 or Mary DeDecker (619) 878-2389 for more information after the scouting trip.

JULY 16-17. Leader: Doris Fredendall. Overnight trip to the Glass Mountains. Camp at Sawmill Meadows. Meet in Benton at the junction of Highways 6 and 120 at 10:00 am Saturday.

For those who miss the group. After approximately 15 miles north on Highway 120 we will turn left on 1S01 (watch for road sign). Keep to the right at the fork where you will leave the canyon bottom; then keep to the left at the intersection with 1S16.

There is wood, but no water (except in the meadow) at the 10,000 ft. camp site. Bring warm clothes. Also insect repellent, the usual camping gear, hand lens, reference books, notebook, etc. There will be a great variety of plants!!

Note: For more information on trips, call Field Trip Chairperson, Mary DeDecker at (619) 878-2389.

Upcoming Events

The Bristlecone Chapter is planning a new event this year. On July 14 our chapter will host a dinner featuring an outstanding speaker and plant ecologist, Dr. Bruce Pavlik. Dr. Pavlik, a professor from Mills College has long held an appreciation of the eastern Sierra with its varied and unique environments. Details as to the location of the dinner will be announced in the upcoming July newsletter.

Educational Courses

The following are a few of the natural history courses offered by the Yosemite Association this summer.

July 16-19. *An introduction to Yosemite's Natural History*, is an excellent overview to the Park's unique botany, and ecology.

July 28-31. *Meet the Butterflies*, taught by John Lane in Tuolumne Meadows.

August 5-7. *Wildflower Hunt* with Mike Ross.

The Yosemite Association also offers outings that focus on revegetation projects. Two summer trips will be located in Tuolumne Meadow and are scheduled for the weeks of **July 24 - 30** and **July 31 - August 6**. The third week is planned for **September 25 - October 1** in Yosemite Valley.

For more information on natural history and revegetation outings, contact the Yosemite Association at (209) 379-2646; POB 230 El Portal, CA 95318.



Field Trip to the Panamint Mountains - Death Valley National Monument

Saturday April 16

It was a beautiful day for the eleven people who joined together for a warm but dedicated search for flowers. Our endeavors led us to several points on the west side of the Panamint Mountains along the Wildrose Canyon Road. From the Wildrose/Trona junction, we first stopped to see several turtleback (*Psathyrotes ramosissima*) in bloom. Vince Yoder pointed out several dry, woody shrubs and the skeletons of spiny chorianthe (*Chorizanthe rigida*) and pagoda buckwheat (*Eriogonum rixfordii*). He noted that the dry year has been responsible for the lack of annuals. Fortunately, we had the blooming Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and turtleback to enjoy.

Our next stop was up a wash to spot the Panamint daisies (*Enceliopsis covillei*). There were many small plants hanging onto the cliffs, with old, dry flower stalks and quite a few, large, healthy plants in the wash, as well as a few seedlings. Although there were many green stalks, only two flowers could be found. Vince said that the previous Tuesday he had counted fourteen blossoms. In the interim, all the blooms had been cropped by burros.

Two of Death Valley National Monument's seasonal naturalists, Alan Van Valkenburg and Charle Callagan, were along for the trip. They said that since several piles of burro droppings were seen and that they had seen burros in adjoining Nemo Canyon earlier that week, that the odds were that the burros were coming up Wildrose Canyon from outside the monument to get water. The daisy blossoms were just an extra delectable treat. They went on to say that even after burros are eliminated or removed from the monument, that they can reinvade from

Panamint field trip continued.

adjoining lands. Alan and Charle urged everyone to report any burros they see in the Monument to a ranger as soon as possible.

In the shade at the cul-de-sac of the wash, prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*) and thickleaf ground- cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*) were blooming as well as rattlesnake weed (*Chamaesyce albomarginata*). After this we headed up to the picnic area for lunch under the Fremont cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*).

When we finished lunch, we drove past the Wildrose ranger station on the road to the charcoal kilns and stopped to enjoy what few flowers there were. Though common, these blooms were still gems in such a moisture starved spring. There were yellow fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), purple Astragalus species, coral colored apricot mallow (*Spaeralcea ambigua* var. *ambigua*), pink Gilia species, and indian paintbrush (*Castilleja angustifolia*). Since there weren't any blooms at the Kilns some folks decided to return home while a smaller group went on towards Aguerreberry Point. On the way we saw prickly poppy (*Argemone munita*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and numerous rock nettle (*Eucinide urens*).

At Aguerreberry Point we saw Mojave mound cactus (*Echinocereus triclochidiatus*) and Panamint dudleya (*Dudleya saxosa* ssp. *saxosa*) in bloom. The Engleman cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) however were still only in bud. Since the late afternoon was fast approaching we decided to end our search for the seemingly reclusive blooms and said we would try again in a wet year...

.....Margaret Anderson

Conservation

Southern Sierra Nevada Bioregional Meeting

Towards a Vision for the
Southern Sierra Nevada Bioregion

On Sunday, April 17 about 35 persons of diverse backgrounds met to discuss mutual concerns about the uses and abuses of the Southern Sierra and its continued and improved health.

Bioregional and watershed planning are gaining momentum as scientists, conservationists and policy makers realize the importance of a broad vision for preserving biological diversity over large areas. We need to determine the requirements for protection of species, habitats and ecological processes at these large scales. We need to ensure coordinated planning and management across landownerships and issues, and to integrate human activities with the maintenance and restoration of ecological health. An interagency team has begun to discuss bioregional planning for the south Sierra Nevada, an area stretching from the Kaweah watershed, through the Tehachapis to the crucial linkage with the Transverse ranges. The region includes the westside foothills, the eastern slopes south of Shepherd Creek, and the ecotone around the I-5 Grapevine.

There are a wide range of important issues for this bioregion, from protection of critical habitat to restoration of riparian ares, and maintenance of the long-term biological viability of the western foothills in the face of developmental pressures. The creation and promotion of a citizen's coalition for



Bioregional meeting continued.

the future, is an essential step in ensuring that the bioregional approach results in effective protection of biological diversity and ecological health.

GOALS

Maintain all species and habitat types throughout their geographic ranges and allow evolution to occur.

Restore natural communities in degraded areas.

Utilize management approaches that mimic nature, providing a natural mix of species and ecosystems.

Ensure that human communities are islands in a matrix of continuous natural ecosystems.

Ensure that there are fully funded monitoring programs, with data being used to modify management activities.

Provide opportunities for recreation, enjoyment and inspiration without damaging nature.

Promote citizen responsibility and an understanding and respect for nature.

Provide for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

OBJECTIVES

Develop a system of preserves and landscape linkages across the length and breadth of the range.

Protect all remaining old growth/ancient forests and restore connectivity.

Preserve all remaining wild rivers and restore the natural condition of other rivers.

Provide higher levels of stream and riparian area protection to ensure the biological health of these habitats.

Restore degraded watersheds throughout the range.

Preserve endangered and threatened habitats

Allow for the dynamic, shifting mosaic of natural ecosystems, including response to climatic shifts.

Encourage ecologically sustainable economic activity on public and private lands.

Guide commercial and residential development into specific areas to restrict sprawl.

Improve air quality throughout the range.

Regulate mining, grazing and timber harvesting to protect natural resource values.

Promote fire management programs that restore and maintain natural conditions and restrict development in fire-prone areas.

Improve and coordinate scientific research and data collecting.

Work with schools, public officials

Bioregional meeting continued.

and the general public to develop educational programs.

Additional meetings will occur to clarify involvement for participating individuals and organizations. We will keep you informed and if anyone is interested in becoming involved let me know.

.....Vince Yoder

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACTION ALERT!

Showdown Looming in Sacramento over the future of the California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is our state's most important law for the protection of plants, animals and their dwindling habitat. There are 73 species of native California wildlife and 215 species of native plants which are listed and protected as "rare", "threatened" and "endangered" with extinction under CESA.

The opponents of endangered species protection are very well organized this year, and have at least three bills which may substantially weaken CESA. These bills include; AB 3052 sponsored by Cruz Bustamante (D-Fresno), SB 2091 sponsored by Governor Pete Wilson, and the SB 1621 which is sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

CALL FOR ACTION:

The environmental community is looking to Senator Gary Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to defend CESA in 1994 via his **SB 1549**. SB 1549 will:

Establish clear mandates and goals for multi-species protection efforts.

Define how CESA protects habitat and plants.

Require progress on recovery plans for species listed under CESA.

Establish uniform standards for "incidental take" of listed species.

Provide incentives to private landowners to protect habitat and species.

Restructure habitat planning in California.

Please mail letters and FAX's of support for **SB 1549** NO LATER THAN MAY 10th to:

Senator Mike Thompson, Chairman
Senate Natural Resources
and Wildlife Committee
Room 2205, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-5441 (Phone) (916) 323-2232
(FAX)

Earth Share

One of the ways CNPS receives funds is through the fundraising efforts of Earth Share of California. Last year, Earth Share raised over \$2.3 million dollars for its 82 member environmental groups - a 21% increase from the year before.

As a CNPS member, you can also help us raise money through Earth Share. Does your workplace have an employee giving campaign? If so, does it include Earth Share? If you answered no to one or both of these questions, please urge your

Earth Share continued.

company to have Earth Share as a contribution option for its employees. To find out more about how you can help CNPS with its fundraising, please call Earth Share at either (415) 882-9330 or (800) 368-1819.

Grazing Monitors Needed

The effects of grazing on plant communities in most National Forests and Bureau of Land Management lands has long distressed CNPS members. Here is a chance to do something about it.

Volunteers are needed from all parts of the state to participate in coordinated monitoring of federally owned rangelands. CalGRA will train volunteers, starting this spring, to use simple photographic and other monitoring techniques to document damage to soils, riparian areas and plant communities, and violations of environmental laws.

YOU CAN HELP

CalGRA is hosting its first training workshop in Truckee on May 21 and 22. This workshop will demonstrate simple, standard techniques to effectively monitor grazing impacts. Experts from the BLM, Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the University of California and CalGRA will provide information on relevant laws and regulations, monitoring techniques, and the impacts of grazing to plant communities, wildlife, soil, and water.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or in participating in the monitoring effort please contact me:

Emily Roberson
Public Lands Planner
CNPS 1722 J. St., Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

Book Reviews

We are proud to announce the 5th Edition of the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*, just off the press. It is a beautiful and most useful book. The cover displays the CNPS logo, our own Panamint Daisy, *Enceliopsis covillei*. Its contents are the most comprehensive yet undertaken, including a wealth of related information. It even includes some color photos of select plants.

An inordinate amount of effort has gone into making this a complete, updated report, including consideration of changes made in the new Jepson Manual. Great care has been made to ensure its credibility. Mark Skinner and his staff who worked long hours in the final weeks are to be congratulated to have achieved such an outstanding reference.

.....Mary DeDecker, Rare Plant Chair

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new member in our chapter

Marvey Chapman
Independence

Bristlecone Chapter offers Condolences

The recent death of Ron Henry of Ridgecrest is another sad loss for the Bristlecone Chapter. He leaves us with an appreciation for his principles of conservation and fond memories of his thoughtfulness on field trips. Our sympathy goes to his wife Mary Ann, and their three children.

.....Mary DeDecker

THE 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 the understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Varied interests are represented.

Name _____ P.O. Box or Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter _____ Other _____.

Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retired/Limited Income	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Library	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Group	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1,000.00

Please make check payable to: The California Native Plant Society. **Mail to:** Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS, HCR 67 Box 35, Independence, CA 93526.

Gift Contribution: Where most needed _____ Conservation _____.

THE BRISTLECONE CHAPTER 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: Anne Halford.

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