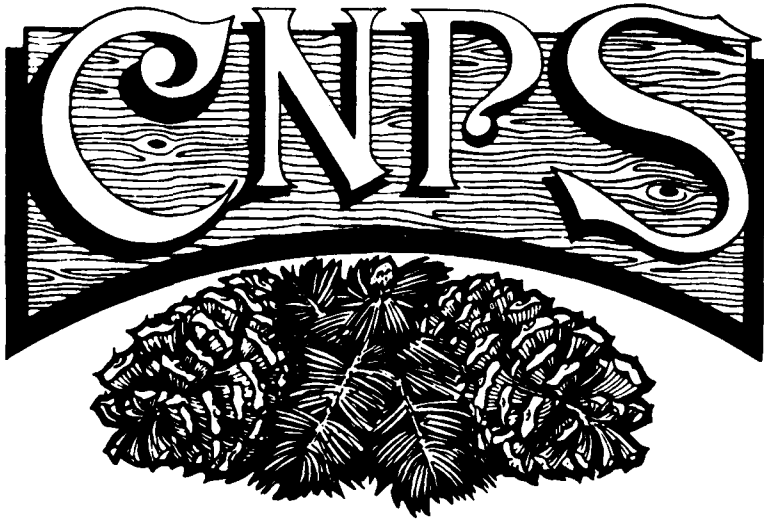


DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

**BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER**



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Volume 13 No. 5 September 1994

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**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:**

Wednesday September 28, at 7:30 pm at the Lo Inyo School in Lone Pine. The guest speaker will be botanist, Steve Ingram. The title of his talk: Ecology of Epiphytes ("air plants") in Monteverde, Costa Rica will cover the synopsis of 8 years of research on the ecology of epiphytes in the cloud forests of the Monteverde region. He will discuss and show slides of the forest canopy epiphytes inhabit, their floristic composition, and distribution.

**NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING:**

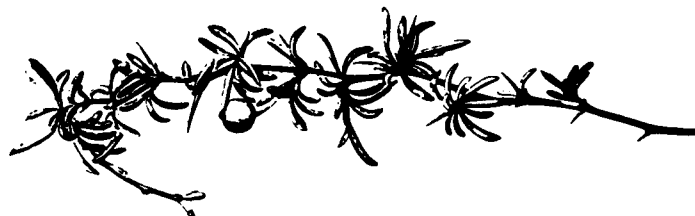
Tuesday September 20, at 7:00 pm at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

With sparse displays of plants amid record heat, it has still been a memorable summer for the Bristlecone Chapter. Our first annual banquet with a CNPS Fellow award to Doris Fredendall and Dr. Bruce Pavlik as guest speaker was a huge success. Friendship-cementing field trips like the overnight trip to Sawmill Meadows, to the 10,000 ft. Whitebark Pine forests of the Sweetwater Mountains, from the gracious hospitality of Jody Stewart at the National Historic Site of Cerro Gordo, to sketching plants in Onion Valley, and to locating new rare plant sites in the Inyo Mountains - all were outstanding and varied!

With admiration and appreciation, many thanks to all those dedicated leaders who shared their time, energy and knowledge with us. Watch for anecdotal reports in this and future newsletters. Join us in anticipation of more field trips this season and upcoming chapter presentations.

.....Betty Gilchrist, President



**Plant Ecologist Dr. Bruce Pavlik  
Presents Program for 1st Annual  
Bristlecone Chapter Banquet**

Dr. Bruce Pavlik, professor of biology from Mills College in Oakland, presented a lecture on the status of rare plants in California. Dr. Pavlik is the former CNPS Vice President for Rare Plants, and is co-editor of the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*, fifth edition.

Dr. Pavlik began the lecture with an overview of how California's rare plant program is evolving. Efforts to protect rare plants began during the 1970's following the passage of federal and state endangered species acts. During the first decade, emphasis was placed on compiling information on locations of rare plant populations. As a result, new plants were added to sensitive species lists, while others were found to be so abundant that they were either removed or placed in a less sensitive category.

Gradually, the emphasis has begun to change towards the management of rare plants and their associated habitats. Management requires development of appropriate monitoring programs designed to adequately assess demographic and ecological trends within rare plant populations. Through the development of monitoring programs and more comprehensive habitat recovery plans perpetuation of rare plants and their associated habitats will be facilitated.

Dr. Pavlik and Skinner performed a review of where plant rarity hot spots occur in California. Rare plant diversity was found to be highest in lowland coastal and grassland habitats that include the coastal scrub and chaparral community types. These areas also coincide with large-scale development and expansion. Not surprisingly, relatively few acres of such habitats are currently protected in parks or preserves. In contrast, habitats such as alpine scrub, of which approximately 90% is protected in California, have relatively few rare plants. Therefore, in terms of rare plant conservation our preserves "are in all the wrong places".

Dr. Pavlik concluded his talk with an example of how careful research can help lead to effective management of a rare species. He and other research associates have been performing field experiments on an extremely rare annual, *Amsinckia grandiflora*, which is native to California's grasslands. Using treatments such as

fire, clipping, and grass-specific herbicides, he is finding that techniques that reduce the abundance of competitive, non-native annual grasses allow for enhanced growth and seed production in *Amsinckia* individuals. It is hoped that new populations of this species can be established, and given proper management will thrive, thus bringing this species back from its teetering position on the brink of extinction.

**1994 Bristlecone Chapter Fall  
Field Trips**

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**SEPTEMBER 10.** Leader: Doris Fredendall. Fruiting shrubs of Big Pine Canyon. Meet at the end-of-the-road parking lot in Big Pine Canyon at 9:00 am. A leisurely 3-4 hour walk at the 7000-8000 ft. elevation of the Eastern Sierra.

**OCTOBER 8.** Leader: Scott Hetzler. Fall colors on Rock Creek. Meet at the Home Street School parking lot in Bishop at 9:00 am. We will go up to about 10,000 ft, making frequent stops. Hiking will be moderate.

**FIELD TRIP POLICIES**

Generally, day trips last most of the day while the overnight trips conclude mid-afternoon on Sundays. On all trips bring a lunch and plenty of water. Although we are often near vehicles at lunch, always be prepared to carry your supplies on a hike. On overnight trips be prepared to have food and water supplies for two days. Other essentials to bring for all trips include; a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and sturdy hiking shoes and don't forget your hand lens and field guides!!

Family, friends and visitors are welcome to come along, but please no pets. Unless indicated, the average car should be fine on our trips. All vehicles however should be reliable, have good tires and full gas tanks. Trips will LEAVE at the time announced, so please arrive a few minutes early. Car pooling is encouraged. Please contact Mary DeDecker, Field Trip Chair at (619) 878-2389 for more information on our field trips. HAPPY BOTANIZING!!!

## Field Trip Reports

### *Black Lake and Sagehen Summit*

The June 25 trip, led by Anne Halford, was an unexpected treat on this drought year. We met at Benton and traveled westward on Highway 120 through a gap in the Benton Range to Black Lake. This relict pleistocene lake at the lower, southeast arm of Adobe Valley appears dark and mysterious, even on a sunny day. Joy Fatooh, a BLM wildlife biologist was there to explain the diversity of life forms that inhabit this unique lake and include a plethora of waterfowl, brine shrimp and birds of prey.

Black Lake is currently privately owned and is up for sale. It is hoped that through public awareness and support of this wetland gem, that Black Lake will be purchased by the American Land Conservancy and subsequently managed by the Bishop Resource Area BLM.

We drove north following the extensive alkali meadow system that is bisected by smaller sloughs and springs. These are biologically intact alkali meadows currently unimpacted by grazing or water diversion activities. We were delighted to see vigorous populations of the Inyo County star tulip (*Calochortus excavatus*), scattered throughout the meadow borders. Black Lake represents the most northerly distribution of this species of *Calochortus*, which is also sparsely distributed in relictual sites of the Owens Valley. Besides the familiar alkali meadow species we were surprised to find dense patches of Great Basin popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys kingii* var. *harknessii*) in open, clayey patches within the meadows. It is distinguished by its dainty white flowers that were lovely accents against the golden hues of grass. In contrast, we also saw sturdy, hollow-stemmed plants of alkali-marsh *Senecio* (*Senecio hydrophilus*) on the brink of blooming.

Reluctantly, we moved on, continuing west on Highway 120 to the pumice flats just east of Mono lake. Bright magenta slopes of the diminutive pumice monkey flower (*Mimulus bigelovii*) hinted of grander things to come. Soon we came upon a large pumice flat literally covered with the rare Duran lupine (*Lupinus duranii*), its sweet fragrance engulfing us as we exited our cars. One edge of this sea of lavender was overtaken by the golden blooms of the pumice Hulsea (*Hulsea vestita*). We walked out onto the flat to find another rare species, the

Mono milk-vetch (*Astragalus monoensis*), its tiny pearl-colored flowers were very modest compared to its neighbors.

With that we stopped for lunch amongst the swathes of color where we feasted on this unexpected scene. We were grateful for such a beautiful day and vowed to return another year.

.....Mary DeDecker

### *Sawmill Meadows*

July 16 and 17

In a dry and largely flower deprived year, the Sawmill meadows area seemed like an oasis. Although Doris Fredendall, the trip leader assured us that it was nothing compared to 10 years ago, the variety of wildflowers and other plants we found was stupendous!

We met in Benton early Saturday morning, and proceeded to our campsite high in the montane meadows of the Glass Mountains. After setting up our campsites, we set out to see what botanical treasures awaited us. The following is only a synopsis of the 65 plants we were able to identify.

The meadows were filled with creamy-white ribbons of Parish's yampah (*Perideridia parishii* ssp. *latifolia*), and ranger's buttons (*Sphenosciadium capitellatum*) as well as bursts of lavender from the long-leaved aster (*Aster ascendens*). Along the wettest reaches of the meadow were the bright blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium idahoense*), white rein orchids (*Plantanthera leucostachys*), carpet clover (*Trifolium monanthum*) and magenta swords of fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*).

One of the most unique features of this area are the numerous bogs that occur in the lodgepole glades bordering the main meadow complex. These highly acidic microsites support an array of very interesting and beautiful plants such as the English wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*) with its bell shaped waxy-pink flowers and Labrador tea (*Ledum glandulosum*) an evergreen shrub with dark green and distinctly veined leaves.

By early evening we gathered for snacks and watched the approach of dusk. After dinner we enjoyed a campfire and stories of past botanical adventures. Morning was delightfully crisp and

### Field trip reports continued.

some people ventured up to climb Glass Mountain where small populations of the rare Mono Lake Astragalus (*Astragalus monoensis*) were found as well as a very easterly extension of a Sierran alpine species; David's penstemmon (*Penstemon davidsonii*).

Others proceeded to lower elevations where again verdant, flower laden meadows were explored. After a final stop to examine the ruins of an old sawmill the group separated to go their various ways. It had indeed been a great trip!

.....Bette Sisson

### Upcoming Events

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The White Mountain Research Station is pleased to announce the dedication of the new Crooked Creek Facilities on September 17 at 11:00 am. If you would like more information contact: WMRS at (619) 873-4344.

#### Intensive Workshops on the Systematics of Botanical Groups 1994-1995

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium will be sponsoring an excellent series of systematic workshops on a variety of botanical groups. Group size is limited to 20 individuals on a first come, first serve basis. Cost per workshop is \$145.00.

#### Upcoming workshops:

September 17 & 18, 1994. Compositae (Asteraceae, Daisy Family)  
Bruce Baldwin and John L. Strother, University of California Berkeley.

October 15 & 16, 1994. *Quercus* (Oaks) Fagaceae  
John M. Tucker, University of California, Davis and Pam Muick, University of California, Berkeley.

For more information and a brochure of workshop listings contact: Susan D'Alcama at the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley, CA 94720 (510) 643-7008.

### California Exotic Pest Plant Symposium 1994 September 30 and October 1

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC) announces the third annual symposium dealing with a major environmental threat that has recently been attracting nationwide attention.

In California, and throughout the nation, exotic pest plants pose the greatest single threat to the long term integrity of many natural areas and ecosystems. According to one estimate prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, infestations of exotic pest plants are increasing at the rate of approximately 2,000 acres per day on disturbed and undisturbed BLM lands of the west.

The symposium will bring together leading experts, land managers, public and non-profit agency staff, field practitioners and concerned citizens who are developing solution to this significant ecological problem.

For more information contact: Sally Davis; 448 Bello Street; Pismo Beach, CA 93449. (805) 773-2828.

#### Help Educate the Public About the Beauty and Value of Eastern Sierran Native Plants

This is an excellent opportunity for CNPS and the Bristlecone Chapter to gain recognition!! Over 100,000 people tour the Mono Lake Visitor Center in Lee Vining annually. The visitor center would like to develop garden islands that contain many of the beautiful native wildflowers found in the Mono Basin. The goal is to create an interpretive garden with illustrated signs about these natives and the benefits of using them in landscaping.

By adopting and maintaining a section of these natural gardens, CNPS will be recognized and will help to educate visitors about the unique flora of the Mono Basin.

If you would like to be involved with this project please contact: Jo Anne Dolan at: (619) 647-3044.

## Conservation Corner

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Moods swing back and forth in our Country. The environmental movement has held its ground for about 20 years or so, but evidence is rife that the pendulum is swinging back to a more conservative point of view. There have arisen "scientific" studies that are refuting many environmental positions. These studies are news for the media, which is tiring of the same old repetitious environmental "scare tactics". Dissent is news. As reported in a lead article in the Nucleus, published by the Union of Concerned Scientists quarterly;

"Inserting themselves into the media arena are a variety of well-funded, well-orchestrated campaigns to confuse the public about environmental science in order to stop or weaken policies designed to improve the environment...[T]he coal industry has been particularly aggressive in casting doubt on the science of climate change...

Another example is the "wise use" movement, comprised of a number of different groups fighting environmental statutes that restrict the use of wetlands, forests, or other natural resources. Although these groups seem to have spontaneously erupted from the grassroots, many are in fact supported and encouraged by national direct-mail experts with close ties to mining, forestry, and ranching interests...

These groups that oppose environmental protection have been extremely adept at pushing the media's balance buttons. Their agenda seems to be to create such a cacophony on scientific issues that it will undermine the ability of either reporters or the public to distinguish credible from junk science. By reducing every issue to a scientific free-for-all, these vested interests foment public distrust of scientists and rely on the resulting confusion as their rationale for advocating inaction...

The challenge for us all is to fully appreciate the way the scientific community searches for answers and reaches agreement; to recognize when

findings become so widely accepted by scientists as to merit no further debate; to acknowledge the distinctions between authoritative science and speculation from the fringe..."

So don't believe all you read or hear now-a-days that debunks our efforts to bring about a more healthy environment. The basic environmentalist claims haven't changed - the radical users' voices are getting more attention from the media.

.....Vince Yoder

Reference: Nucleus Vol. 16, No. 2.

### A Note of Thanks From Our New CNPS Fellow

I had a captive audience but was so overwhelmed that I couldn't even say "Thank You" for your presence at the CNPS banquet where I was so surprisingly honored. So through this newsletter, I express my appreciation to the members of the Bristlecone Chapter for your faith in my ability to be a proper Fellow.

.....Doris Fredendall

## Local Artists Corner

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The following is just one of the lovely illustrations from the very successful and thoroughly enjoyed "Sketch and Walk" field trip led by Richard Potashin on Saturday, August 6. Look for more illustrations in upcoming newsletters!



*B. Schubert*

## 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.

California Native Plant Society  
**Bristlecone Chapter**  
HCR 67 Box 35  
Independence, CA  
93526

