

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

Wednesday January 25, at 7:30 pm at the White Mountain Research Station in Bishop. Our speaker will be Carla Scheidlinger of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Carla will present a program entitled: *Using Vegetation to Stabilize Owens Playa Surfaces*. Come hear about the remarkable success she has had getting plants to grow in this harsh environment.

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING:

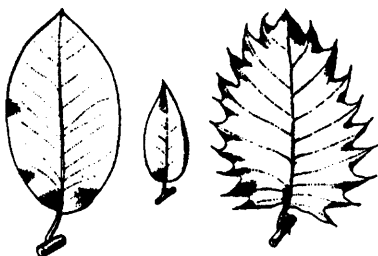
Tuesday January 17, at 7:00 pm at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone! And, hello! The Bristlecone Chapter has a new president and that happens to be me. Although my arm still hurts from all the twisting, I am very honored to serve this chapter as president, and I hope I can do at least half as good a job as the past presidents have done. I want to especially thank Betty Gilchrist for serving as our president for the past two years. She did an outstanding job and will be a hard act to follow.

Here are a few things I hope our chapter can do this year:

- 1) Let's get a yearly plant sale going. Aside from being a fund-raiser, California has many nice plants that are great for using in landscaping. Now don't go digging up native plants; they can be propagated by collecting seeds and cuttings. Also, many nurseries now stock natives for both small and large-scale consumers.
- 2) How about putting together a display of pictures of our native plants, with text, that we could put up in schools, banks, the county fair, etc.? We need to spread the word that native plants are worth saving, and at the same time we'll probably recruit new members with these displays.
- 3) I hope to see lots of field trips this year. Contrary to what you might think, you don't have to be a plant expert to lead a field trip. Maybe you know of an interesting place that you would like



to share with other people. You could lead a field trip to collect seeds to grow for our plant sale or take pictures of plants to use in our display. Our members and friends like to go on field trips because they like the company of other people that love the outdoors.

4) The State Board would like every member to convince at least one new person to join CNPS this year. If we did that, we would increase our membership by 100%!

I'm looking forward to the new year. There are lots of things our chapter can do, and with help from you we can make them happen. If you have ideas, questions, or would like to help out in any way, give me a call at 873-8392. Or, if you can't reach me, you may call the new Vice President, Sally Manning at 873-3790. We would like to hear from you.

.....Scott Hetzler

A reminder: Our chapter meetings are held the last Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November. We move up and down the Owens Valley to help accommodate members.

Mark your calendars now for this year's meetings:

January 25, 7:30 p.m. White Mountain Research Station. See announcement.

March 29, 7:30 p.m. Big Pine Methodist Church, School Street. Retired US Forest Service Geneticist, LeRoy Johnson will speak to us about his interests that range from the genetics of bristlecone pines to Death Valley history.

May 31, 7:30 p.m. Sierra Baptist Church in Independence. Program TBA

September 27, 7:30 p.m. Lone Pine (Location TBA). Death Valley's Natural Resources Specialist, Douglas Threlhoff will present a program on biological studies under way in the National Park.

November 29, 6:30 p.m. Big Pine Methodist Church. Potluck dinner followed by members' slide show. This is a fun way to share your adventures or reminisce about flowers seen!

Upcoming Events

The White Mountain Research Station will hold its annual lecture series in the spring of 1995. Lectures are free and all are invited. The talks take place in the WMRS classroom, 3000 E. Line Street, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Refreshments are served.

March 2, 1995

Stream Flow, Livestock Grazing and Aquatic Habitat in the Cottonwood Basin, White Mountains, California.

Professor G. Mathias Kondolf
Department of Landscape Architecture,
University of California, Berkeley

March 9, 1995

Arts and Natural Sciences through Prints and Books.

Dr. John Moore
Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences
University of California, Riverside and a member
of the National Academy of Sciences

March 16, 1995

Rivers of California

Professor Jeffrey Mount
Department of Geology
University of California, Davis

March 23, 1995

Equine Outreach and Participatory Research on the Mule: A blend of Teaching and Research in The High Sierra.

Professor Steven J. Wickler
Director of Equine Research
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

March 30, 1995

History of European Man in the White Mountains, California.

David L. Trydahl
Manager
White Mountain Research Station

April 6, 1995

Paraglacial Patterned Ground in the White Mountains, California.

Forrest Wilkerson, M.S.
Department of Geography
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Note: The March 9 lecture, organized in conjunction with the Inyo Council for the Arts, will combine a talk and an exhibition of old books and original prints. The exhibition will take place in WMRS dining hall and will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday. We are looking for some original botany prints as well as Audubon prints to be included in the exhibition. If you could help us, please contact Dick MacMillen at 872-2075.

For additional information regarding the Lecture Series, please contact Elizabeth Phillips at 873-4344.

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:

February 18 & 19, 1995 Ferns and Fern Allies
Alan Smith
University of California, Berkeley

March 18 & 19, 1995 Bryophytes (Mosses)
Brent D. Mishler
University of California, Berkeley

April 8 & 9, 1995 *Lupinus* (Lupines) Fabaceae
Teresa Sholars
College of The Redwoods

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

The following article by Mary DeDecker is the first in a series on native plants that will focus on ecology, taxonomy and other natural history information.

Mistletoes

The high regard for mistletoe during the winter holidays probably originated with the ancient druids who used the mistletoe growing on a sacred oak for charms. Early europeans also used it as a ceremonial plant. Today a kiss under a hanging branch of mistletoe evokes these ancient festivities and probably gives it some commercial value. Otherwise, it is looked upon

as an undesirable parasite deleterious to its host trees and shrubs.

The mistletoe family, Viscaceae (Loranthaceae) is widely distributed in the tropics and in the temperate zone. Two genera, *Arceuthobium* and *Phoradendron* are native to California, and both occur in Inyo and Mono Counties. A European genus, *Viscum album*, was introduced in California by Luther Burbank. It may still be found in Sonoma County, but is not known east of the Sierra Nevada.

The various species of *Arceuthobium* are host specific, so occur wherever the host pine or fir is found. The most common one in this region is *Arceuthobium divaricatum* which consists of a tuft of leafless stems only 2.5 inches high. Since pinyon trees are not valued for lumber, few studies examining the effect mistletoe has on them have been made. I have noted however, that trees in heavily infested areas suffered a great loss in broken limbs in years of heavy snowfall.

The *Phoradendron* species in this region are parasitic on juniper and mesquite. They are:

P. californicum (mesquite or desert mistletoe). It makes a dense growth n branches of mesquite. Leaves are scalelike.

P. densum (leafy juniper or dense mistletoe). Makes dense clumps, sometimes as large as a basketball, on branches of Utah juniper. Leaves 0.5 to 2 inches long, ovate or oblanceolate.

P. juniperinum (juniper mistletoe). Branches 6 to 16 inches long, usually erect, appearing leafless. Leaves scalelike. On Utah juniper.

Mistletoe stems are brittle; flowers are minute and inconspicuous, lacking petals. Their fruits are berries or drupes, more or less transparent, pearl-like, white to faintly colored, and mucilaginous about the seeds. The fruits of some species burst explosively, ejecting the seeds to stick to a nearby tree. Also, birds are attracted to the fruit, the seeds stick to the bird's beaks and then to the tree branches where they clean their beaks. Germination is slow but usually sure. It takes several years for a mistletoe shoot to appear.

Mistletoe hybrids are rare but the two juniper species hybridize upon Utah junipers on

Whippoorwill Flat in the Inyo Mountains. The hybrids are only occasional but easily recognized as crosses between the two parents. There is no evidence that they reproduce.

Mistletoes take interesting forms elsewhere in the world. One in Africa has showy flowers pollinated by honey birds. West Australia has tree forms about the size of a small pinyon tree, but far too brittle to climb. They thrive in fields of annual grasses. Farmers protect them for their beauty, when covered with orange colored flowers in December. They are called "Christmas trees". In the outback of Australia mistletoe leaves mimic the host tree, lanceolate on eucalyptus and needle-like on cork trees. One species goes as far north as the Himalaya, where it has a moss-like form.

The conspicuous mistletoe so common throughout California west of the Sierra on poplars, willows, etc., is *Phoradendron macrophyllum*. We are fortunate that it has not crossed the Sierra Nevada.

.....Mary DeDecker

Conservation Corner

The Inyo National Forest has recently amended its Land and Resources Management Plant (LRMP) by modifying direction for the management of deer herds. Eight deer herd plans would no longer be incorporated into the Forest Plan. The removal of these plans would be replaced by direction to continue working with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to ensure that Forest Service decisions are made only after considering the most up-to-date information on mule deer.

As part of the motivation for this change, the Forest Service recently adopted an Ecosystem Management strategy as a means to achieve diverse, healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems. One principle of this approach is to move away from single-species management (such as deer herd plans). and move towards a more ecocentric approach in which entire communities of plants and animals are addressed.

Increases in livestock grazing use will not be allowed where such increases are shown to be detrimental to mule deer habitat. Reduction and/or changes in grazing will be considered if

conflicts with deer are identified and cannot otherwise be mitigated.

At the landscape scale, analyses will be conducted that will be consistent with Ecosystem Management principles that address overall habitat condition and the maintenance of biodiversity for a variety of species, including deer. Such analyses need to consider historic variation in vegetation, deer populations, and other biophysical and social/cultural parameters.

Inyo-White Mountain Herd: Consider moving livestock entirely from one drainage to determine the effects on deer use, migration and numbers. Do not allow new roads or trails into important deer areas, where such developments would be detrimental to deer use.

Monache Herd: Increase or re-establish protective cover and herbaceous vegetation in key fawning areas. Emphasis should be placed on protection from livestock damage and establishment of vegetation that can provide adequate cover, such as willow species.

In the Bishop Creek-Buttermilk Management Area, where allotments have been removed from grazing, impacts to the Round Valley Deer Herd will be examined.

Variations from standards which will require further action include those which have a 20% loss in the capacity of key habitats (winter range, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas). We concur with the idea that this should be administered so that the 20% loss is from a future desired condition rather than a loss from a present condition which may already be degraded to less than desirable.

Paragraphs which relate more directly to our vegetative interests have been selected from the EA/Decision Notice. Much more discussion and further changes in the LRMP will be of interest to those more concerned with deer management per se. Copies should be available at the Supervisors Office in Bishop.

.....Vince Yoder

A Farewell to Carl Sharsmith

Carl Sharsmith began working in Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows in 1931. He is said to have explored nearly every "nook and cranny" of Yosemite's High Sierra. His life was well publicized and he was the subject of many articles and the book "Mountain Sage" by Elizabeth O'Neill.

Sharsmith who was born in New York, began a teaching career in 1937 and used his summer seasons to continue working as a ranger. He obtained permanent status in the National Park Service in 1953 while teaching in San Jose State University, where he was a professor of botany from 1950-1973.

Sharsmith retired from permanent status in 1973 but was rehired twenty days later as a seasonal park ranger, a status he maintained until his death at 91 years.

"Sharsmith was known and loved by hundreds of park employees, visitors and admirers who accompanied him on walks and seminars, delighting in his vast knowledge of Sierra Nevada natural history and the charismatic way he passed on this information" the park service said in a statement.

Excerpt from the Reno Gazette Journal, Saturday October 1994.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members in our Chapter

Ted Geis
Bishop

Michael Walker
Bishop

Diana Jo Worman
Lone Pine

Notes on Natives to try in This Years Garden

Chia (*Salvia columbariae*)

Ornamental annual whose seed has legendary (and actual-very high in fats) food value. The seeds taste like linseed meal. The grey-green leaves are almost fern-like and may grow anywhere from a few inches to two feet tall. Flowers are cobalt blue with wine colored bracts which, from a distance, makes a mass of these look intensely purple. Blooms March-June. This species has evolved seeds of varying colors, to match soil color anywhere, and so avoid predation. Prefers a hot, rocky slope.

Zane Grey Sage (*Salvia dorii*)

Low growing (2-3'), spreading shrub with clear blue flowers, May-July. Foliage isn't particularly becoming, but it is well adapted to very dry places. Native to mid and high elevations (2500-8500') in Joshua Tree and Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands and Sagebrush Scrub communities of the Mojave Desert and up to Lassen county. Flowers are quite attractive; worth trying from seed. Definitely hardy. Medicinal properties very effective.

Excerpt from: DeHart, Jeanine. 1984. Notes on California sages. Growing Native Newsletter No. 24. pgs. 12-13.

Next Newsletter Deadline: Friday, February 24th.



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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