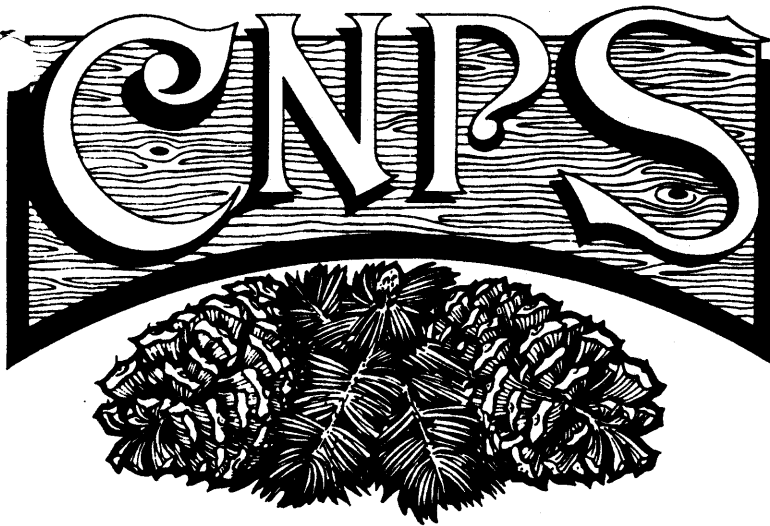


BRISTLECONE • CHAPTER



Volume 14 No. 3 May 1995

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

May 31, 7:30 pm at the Sierra Baptist Church in Independence. Our speaker will be Tom Lipp, California Department of Fish and Game Warden. The talk is entitled "Department of Fish and Game Laws Relating to Water". This is a topic of much interest to most Californians and of particular interest to those of us residing in the Owens Valley.

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday May 23, at 7:00 pm at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This month, I am asking all CNPS members to do some letter writing. The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is under serious attack. Several bills have been introduced that would mean less protection for plants and animals. The so called "Takings" bills are other forms of legislation that should not be supported. Please write Senators Feinstein and Boxer and your Representative. Tell them that you support the Endangered Species Act and that you do not want to see it weakened. Also state that you do not support any of the "Takings" bills.

At the state level the California Endangered Species Act is also under attack. Please write Senator Tom Hayden and your State Senator and express your support of the California Endangered Species Act and do not support S.B. 131. For more information see the April 1995 CNPS bulletin or call me and I can send you some information.

Other plant news - It doesn't look as if our chapter will be having a plant sale this year. I only heard from two people who said they would be willing to help grow/and or help with a plant sale.



Atrichoseris platyphylla

The idea is not dead, but will be on the back burner for now. Even without a sale this year, I still encourage everyone that is interested to try their hand at propagating some natives. It will be a great seed year for many species so don't let it slip away!!

I sure hope you have been getting out to see the flowers this spring. It is indeed a banner year! Everywhere I look it is green, even the lower slopes of the White Mountains are green this year and I haven't seen that in the five years I have been living in the Owens Valley. Our chapter has some great field trips planned this year so I hope to see you on some of them.

It is also time to make all of you aware that the Annual Bristlecone Chapter Banquet date has been set! On Thursday, July 13 we will gather at Whiskey Creek to dine and afterwards, listen to Dr. Delbert Wiens, Professor of Botany from the University of Utah present a lecture on plant extinction. Please look for specifics in this newsletter about how to purchase tickets for this excellent event.

.....Scott Hetzler

Upcoming Spring and Summer Field Trips

We regretted that the March 11-12 trip to China Ranch near Tecopa had to be canceled at the last moment due to hazardous road conditions as a result of the storms during those dates.

On all field trips please take whatever personal needs are necessary; lunch and/or snacks, **plenty** of water, hat, sunscreen, glasses, notebook, pencils, camera, hand lens and field guides/lists. For overnight trips bring all necessary food and camping gear. Please do not bring pets.

All are welcome including friends and family. For more information call the Field Trip Chairperson, Mary DeDecker at (619) 878-2389.

MAY 5. San Lucas Canyon to the "Pearly Gate", Inyo Mountains. Leader: Vince Yoder. Meet at the visitor's center south of Lone Pine at 8:30 am. A combination flowering desert canyon and dramatic historical site trip. A 4WD vehicle is required and the hike will be 4 miles round trip.

MAY 13. Eureka Valley. Leader: Doris Fredendall. Meet at Triangle Campground north of Big Pine at 9:00 am.

MAY 26-27. Mesquite Spring, Lost Burro Gap, etc. Leader: Vince Yoder. Meet at Triangle Campground north of Big Pine at 9:00 am. An overnight trip requiring a 4WD vehicle over a long but extremely interesting route. Go in from Big Pine on the northerly route to Death Valley; camp at Mesquite Spring south of Scotty's Castle, go up Ubehebe Crater, up the wash to Teakettle Junction, Lost Burro Gap, and on to Hunter Mountain and home by way of Highway 190. Please notify Vince Yoder (619) 876-4275 or Mary DeDecker if you plan to join this trip. There is no limit, but we need to know who to expect on an overnight trip.

JUNE 3. McMurry Meadows. Leader: Doris Fredendall. Meet at Triangle Campground north of Big Pine at 9:00 am. Easy Walking, but there is no shade, so please make sure and bring a hat and plenty of water.

JUNE 14. Redding Canyon. Leader: Scott Hetzler. Meet at 9:00 am at the White Mountain Research Station for a moderate 2 mile round trip hike.

JUNE 24. Mollie Gibson Mine Road, White Mountains. Leaders: Clem Nelson and Mary DeDecker. Meet at Triangle Campground north of Big Pine at 9:00 am. Geology and botany. 4WD vehicle required for road from Highway 168. Some car pooling may be possible from there.

JULY 1. A butterfly trip to Glass Creek Meadow. Leader: Derham Guiliani. Meet at 9:30 am at the Crestview rest stop off of Hwy. 395, north of Mammoth Lakes. Glass Creek meadow often has some of the best butterfly diversity in the area. The moderate hike will be approximately 2 miles round trip.

JULY 8. McGee Canyon. Leader: Charlotte Harbeson. Meet at 9:00 am at the McGee Canyon trailhead. From U.S. Hwy. 395 take the McGee Canyon road to the end, past the pack station. This will be an easy to moderate 3-4 mile round trip hike.

JULY 15. Whippoorwill Flat, Inyo Mountains. Leader: Mary DeDecker. Meet at the Triangle Campground north of Big Pine at 9:00 am. This trip will focus on mistletoes but there will be other plants of interest as well.

If time permits we will also take a short hike to an historical site.

JULY 29. A Sketch trip up Big Pine Canyon, Sierra Nevada. Leader: Richard Potashin. Meet at Glacier Lodge parking lot at 9:00 am. Bring white paper, pencils, colored pencils or makers, clipboards, and erasers.

Note: There will be an opportunity for Bristlecone Members to join a small group of "Partners for Plants" volunteers who will be assisting in a rare plant survey in the Inyo Mountains during **May 24-29**. For more information and a copy of the trip agenda please contact Anne Halford at 873-6714.

Upcoming Events

Annual Bristlecone Chapter Banquet

Date: Thursday, July 13th

Time: No-host cocktail service at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00 pm

Cost: \$16.00 which will include; dinner (choice from three entrees), tossed salad of fresh greens, freshly baked breads and coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. Price includes tax and gratuity.

To purchase tickets and for more information, please contact **Dianne Payne at (619) 872-3460**. Also think about bringing a friend to this special event.

Field Trip Reports

Darwin Falls, April 5

Running water in the desert? Yes it's true. Darwin Wash has a stream running through it. I was surprised that with all the rain we've had this spring that the little creek was not a river. That was ok though because on our way to the falls we had to cross the creek numerous times!

Our group of twelve started our hike in Darwin Wash at the end of the road about three quarters of a mile from the falls. It was a beautiful day in early April and the turnout was pretty good for a field trip held in the middle of the week. Vince Yoder and Betty Gilchrist did a fine job leading us up to the falls and back. Plant lists of many of the plants we were to see were passed out and slowly we started to inch our way along. With so many beautiful flowers at our feet it took a little while to actually move faster than a crawl. Lots of the

annuals had such tiny flowers that some of us laid down on our stomachs to get a better look at the details.

The flowers were not the only wonders to get our attention. The rocks in the canyon are very interesting and colorful as well. We saw and heard lots of birds too. The black-throated sparrows seemed the most vocal. A few humming birds were zooming up and down the wash making a loud buzzing sound as if they were some kind of giant insect. We also saw a nice big Chuckwalla sitting on a rock soaking up the sun. I was happy to see a few cacti growing out of the rock walls in full bloom.

For awhile I was pulling up the tamarisk that were little enough to pull out, but as the canyon narrowed the tamarisk got bigger and bigger until I gave up and decided I would have to come back with a chain saw! We had lunch in the shade of the willow trees at the falls where we saw beautiful mosses and ferns growing on the rocks splashed by water. We also enjoyed the delectable cookies Betty brought to share.

After lunch we hiked back down the wash and Vince told us that the Panamint Daisies were in bloom over in Wild Rose Canyon. A few of us didn't want to miss this opportunity so we drove up there to check out the display. Boy are they beautiful!! It was a great way to spend the day and thanks again to Betty and Vince for leading such a fun and interesting trip.

.....Scott Hetzler

Fossil Falls, April 15

One of the most unique geologic formations in southern Inyo county, is about 1/2 mile off of U.S. Hwy. 395, east of Cinder Road. Various types of lava and other volcanic rocks explosively erupted from the earth thousands of years ago forming great basalt flows.

In later periods torrents of water from the glacier fed Owens River flowing south from Owens Lake carved the deep gorge of the renowned fossil falls with its many potholes made as the swirling pleistocene water ground rocks around and around in the bedrock.

The rock-strewn acres around the red cinder cones as well as the easy one-mile walk to the falls on

this cool, sunny morning were breath-takingly covered with multi-colored wildflowers.

The plant list supplied by trip leader, Anne Halford, was originally prepared by Mary DeDecker in 1986. A few more species were added this day. Chapter president, Scott Hetzler was probably the most excited at finding his favorite dandelion, *Glyptopleura setulosa*. Other favorites found in profusion were the "thistle sage", *Salvia carduacea*, and the twining, white "fiesta flower", *Pholistoma membranaceum*.

Photography buffs took advantage of the exquisite colors against the background of black rocks, especially the tall, lavender "Mojave asters", *Xylorhiza tortifolia*.

After a relaxing lunch beside the dry falls we botanized to the east amongst scattered obsidian chips indicating early indian sites. We were treated to an awesome petroglyph of big horned sheep along the ancient riverbed.

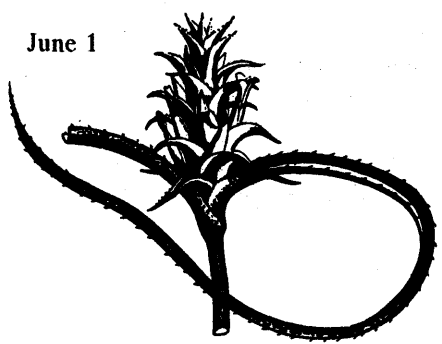
Spring and its profusion of wildflowers in such a good year is such a treat for all of us and we novices truly appreciated the patient sharing knowledge of our botanical friends. Of added interest was to have our Archaeologist member, Kirk Halford share some of his expertise on Native American culture. It was a most rewarding way to spend a spring day.

.....Betty Gilchrist

**Call for Entries
California Native Plant Society
Greeting Cards**

Theme: Images of the California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) will be chosen for a series of notecards to promote CNPS. The images can be depicted in any kind of composition or art form, from formal botanical presentation to abstract format. Several images from more than one artist will be chosen for the poppy theme notecards, with a royalty contract with the artist.

Deadline: June 1



Project Coordinator: Catherine Cort
P.O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209) 561-4671.

The following article by Mary DeDecker is the 3rd in a series on native plants that will focus on ecology, taxonomy and other natural history information.

Note: Correction in the Mistletoe article from the March newsletter. The leaf description in the second paragraph should read: "Leaves are 1/2 to 1 inch long, elliptic with margins slightly rolled under. They are thick and leathery, dark green and shining above, whitish and somewhat downy and prominently veined beneath".

Desert Peach

The plant featured in this issue is another member of the Rose Family (Rosaceae) *Prunus andersonii*, desert peach. It is one of the most beautiful shrubs in the Great Basin. The plant is deciduous, rigid and somewhat spiny, and blooms profusely between March and May, when it is covered with rose-pink flowers. The small green leaves appear later, and are up to 3/4 of an inch long. Unfortunately, the fruit is not edible, but is small, dry and hard, covered with a fuzzy peach-like coat.

It is not a desert shrub at all, but occurs in the Great Basin in Sagebrush and Pinyon-Juniper communities, usually between 4,000 and 7,000 feet in elevation. Visitors to the east side of the Sierra around Easter time frequently inquire about that showy rose-pink bush. It is usually 3 feet in height and commonly occurs along Highway 395 in Mono County. In Inyo County it is likely to be higher up on the slopes.

Prunus andersonii was named for Charles Lewis Anderson who practiced medicine in Carson City in the 1960's. An avid botanist, he discovered the species near Carson City. One can imagine how excited he must have been to find such a beautiful bush.

It is valued by Native Americans for its medicinal qualities. The leaves and branches and sometimes the inner bark or dried roots were steeped or boiled to make a tea. It was utilized to treat colds, influenza, or the primary stages of tuberculosis. A weak solution over a period of time was believed to help overcome rheumatism.

Not only was it appreciated for its beauty but it also brought comfort to those who sought medicinal help.

.....Mary DeDecker

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members in our chapter

Michelle Cox
Lee Vining

Gene Gillette
Bishop

Ronald Lanner
Utah State University

Dave Silverman
Ridgecrest

Sacha Stuart
Lone Pine

▲ Reminder

At the March CNPS Board of Director's meeting a decision to adopt a dues increase for CNPS members was passed.

The new dues levels are comparable to those of many environmental organizations which do not have the strong scientific data management and evaluation efforts that CNPS does. The last dues increase was four and one half years ago; many costs and CNPS conservation and botanical efforts have increased greatly since that time.

If your budget allows only the former membership rate for example \$25 but not \$35, join us as a Limited Income member at \$20 and contribute an additional \$5 to our programs. We would much prefer to have our members remain at a lower rate than to drop their membership. We need your support!!

Members may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to renew their memberships early at the current rate. If you have contemplated Life Membership in CNPS, it may be time to act before the new rates become effective.

Mysteries and Marvels of Plant Life

Pollen Puzzle: Birch tree catkins are groups of male flowers which produce pollen. **How many pollen grains do you think each catkin produces?**

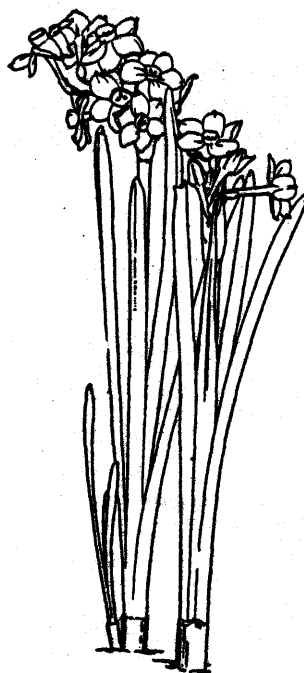
True or False: Orchids are used to make ice cream.

Hardest seeds: Arctic lupine seeds found frozen in the soil in the Canadian Yukon were believed to be between 10,000 and 15,000 years old. Some of them even germinated and produced flowers!

What is the smallest flowering plant in the world?

If you know the answers give me a call (Anne Halford at: 873-6714) or find them out by reading the July newsletter. Send me other botanical puzzles, etc.!

Next Newsletter Deadline: Monday, June 26
I could use some more contributions; notes on where and what wildflower spots are in bloom, poetry, stories, conservation items, etc. Thanks for all the contributions so far.



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	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Library	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Group	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000.00
<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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