

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

No chapter meeting until Wednesday September 24th. Please see program details in the September newsletter.

Reminder: We still need volunteers to help with potting up the vigorously growing native plants for our 1st annual native plant sale on September 6th. Please call Karen Ferrell-Ingram at 387-2913 if you're interested in helping out.

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 22, 7:00 p.m. at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looks like every four months or so I have to remind you all that our chapter is still looking for someone to sell our chapter T-shirts. So here I go again. Would anybody like to be the King or Queen of the T-shirts sales?

We are also in need of someone to be our book sales person. Right now I am selling them. But if I get one more job handed to me by default than I guess you will have to be looking for another chapter president! Just kidding, but I could use some help.

What's all this talk about the possibly of turkeys being introduced to the Owens Valleys? Are we talking about people or birds here? I hope you have signed our petition about our opposition to this. Stay tuned for more on what is happening with this further attack on the natives of the Owens Valley.

This year our chapter's annual banquet will again be held in July. We are fortunate to have Dr. Robert Haller as our speaker. I will be looking forward to seeing you all at the banquet and I promise not to bring up the stuff about sales persons being needed in our chapter.

.....Scott Hetzler

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Bristlecone Chapter Fall Field Trips

As the days get shorter our field trip season starts to wind down. But, it's not over yet! We still have three very interesting trips scheduled for September and October. For all field trips, be sure to bring plenty of water, lunch, good walking shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing for hot sun or inclement weather. Also useful would be a hand lens, binoculars, camera, floras, and plant lists. Trips will leave at the time announced, so please arrive at the meeting sites a few minutes early. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine. Car pooling is encouraged. Everyone is welcome, but please no pets. If you need more information contact Field Trip Chairperson Mark Bagley at 760-873-5326.

September 13, Saturday. California's Largest Utah Juniper, Inyo Mountains. Leader: Mark Bagley. Meet at 9:00 am at the Glacier View Campground (the old Triangle Campground), at the junction of Hwy. 395 and Hwy. 168 just north of Big Pine. Unfortunately, due to an injury Rick Wheeler, who discovered this big tree, will not be able to lead us. Instead Mark will take us on a walk to see the tree just included in the Society of American Foresters, California Register of Big Trees as the largest Utah juniper in California (and possibly the world). Although it is not particularly tall, it is a massive 27 1/2 feet in circumference at ground level. Located on the crest of the Inyos, just north of Wacoba Pass, the views in all directions are magnificent. Other interesting twisted, stunted junipers and very large pinyons will be seen on the hike up the ridge. It should be a moderately strenuous cross-country hike of about one mile, with an elevation gain of 500 feet. Bring your lunch on the walk.

September 27th, Saturday. Red Rock Canyon (Volcanic Tablelands) Revegetation work party. Leader: Anne Halford. Meet at 9:00 at the "Y" behind the Texaco Station at U.S. Hwy. 395 and state Hwy. 6, or at 9:30 at the intersection of the Chidago Canyon and Red Rock Canyon Roads. We will be planting native grasses and shrubs grown at "The Deepest Valley Cooperative Native Plant Propagation Center" to revegetate a spur road through a significant archaeological site. Please bring gloves, watering cans, hand trowels and

shovels.

October 18, Saturday. Owens Lake Wetlands and Dust Mitigation Vegetation Projects. Leader: Carla Scheidlinger. Meet at 9:00 am at the Interagency Visitor Center parking lot, at the junction of Hwy. 395 and Hwy. 136 just south of Lone Pine. The field trip will look at some of the existing plant communities associated with the Owens Lake playa, beginning at the Owens River delta and including spring mounds and shoreline springs and seeps. We will also visit some of the vegetation-based dust mitigation projects on the lake, including the saltgrass panels and the tree rows. Walking will be easy, and four-wheel drive vehicles are a must due to soft and sandy roads. For those without the proper vehicle, carpooling will be encouraged at the meeting site. ~~Bring shoes you don't mind getting dirty/muddy.~~

Field Trip Reports

Tasting the Sweetwaters

The alpine zone of the beautiful Sweetwater Mountains was the destination of 19 Polemonium-seekers from the Eastern Sierra and the Bay Area on the weekend of July 26-27. Daniel Pritchett and Sally Manning graciously escorted us through quiet aspen groves, lush mountain meadows filled with flowers, and lofty overlooks up to our camp site along Cottonwood Creek. There, we were serenaded by a lively stream hidden among large patches of *Polemonium occidentale*, the first of the three members of the *Polemonium* Genus we were to see on the trip. Also growing near camp were *Platanthera leucostachys*, *Amoneta* mushrooms, *Lupinus* spp., and large, showy displays of *Geranium richardsonii*. On an afternoon walk up a Calochortus-covered ridge, thunder rumbled close by, parkas flew out of packs, and a storm sent us back to camp. Wine, wild mushrooms, discussions of mountain lions and bighorn sheep, and anticipation of the upcoming steep, strenuous climb kept us occupied around the campfire that evening!

The Next day we climbed steadily up the Deep Creek drainage, through *Aconitum columbianum*, *Aquilegia formosa*, and *Dugaldia hoopseii* (among many other flowering spp.) in moist areas, and woodlands of *Pinus contorta* var. *murrayana*, and *P. albicaulis* on

sideslopes above the creek. Above treeline, on open rocky slopes.

we found the the sub-alpine *Polemonium pulcherrimum*, and at an elevation of around 11,000' Daniel found a new population of *P. chartaceum* (a CNPS list IB species) growing amid dazzling displays of *Hulsea algida*. A welcome lunch on the summit ridge was accompanied by menacing gray thunderclouds forming almost within reach. A quick climb to the summit of Mt. Patterson (passing another population of *P. chartaceum* en route) was followed by a scramble back down the drainage. Thank you Daniel and Sally for a grand adventure. Lets make it a repeated visit for our chapter.

--Kathy DuVall

Conservation

DFG wrote last month with the news that comments regarding the proposed Owens Valley turkey introduction should be sent to: Mr. Terry Mansfield, Chief, Wildlife Management Division, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. I contacted Ms Patty Wolf, the Region 5 Director, (to whom I had previously asked people to send letters) about the fate of letters sent to her. She assured me she will get them to Terry Mansfield, but she also mentioned that she could only recall having received a single letter! To be absolutely sure your letter gets in the record, please re-send it to the address given above.

While there are no shortage of national and state conservation issues with which to be concerned, we have a unique issue here in the Owens Valley, i.e. the water agreement with L.A. Dept. of Water and Power. There is an urgent need for people who have the time and fortitude to read technical reports relating to the Lower Owens River Project. If citizens do not read the reports and give feedback, the project will, by default, be controlled by LAWP's consultants. There is a real opportunity for public involvement, but it is in danger of being lost.

A related situation exists with regard to management of ongoing groundwater pumping. Under terms of the water agreement, meetings of the Technical Group (the scientists from both Inyo County and LADWP who monitor and control the pumping) will be open to the public. Meetings of the Inyo County Water Commission (a board appointed by the County Supervisors to oversee the water agreement) are

already open but private citizens rarely attend. There is a great need for people who have the time to familiarize themselves with issues related to pumping and who will attend these meetings and make comments when appropriate. In my experience scientists, as well as politicians, may behave very differently when they know their actions are under public scrutiny.

If you are interested in these or any other issues, please contact me at P.O. Box 1411, Bishop, CA 93515.

.....Daniel Pritchett

OWENS VALLEY WATER SETTLEMENT TO PROVIDE MAJOR HABITAT RESTORATION

After 25 years of litigation and negotiations, the restoration of over 60 miles of the Owens River and many additional Owens Valley habitats will finally commence. After nearly 85 years of destructive water practices in the Owens Valley by the City of Los Angeles, a huge restoration of a western arid land environment is set to begin. An historic memorandum of understanding between Inyo County, Los Angeles, two state agencies and two local environmental groups has led to the acceptance of the joint Inyo-Los Angeles Long Term Groundwater Management Plan and EIR by the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento, ending the lengthy litigation. This MOU has resolved disagreements that the Friends of the Court (the Sierra Club, Owens Valley Committee, Fish and Game, and State Lands Commission) had with the 1991 EIR written for the Long Term Groundwater Management Plan.

Both environmental groups had been supportive of the long term agreement which contained significant protection for groundwater and vegetation. However, neither group could accept the flaws and omissions of the accompanying EIR which did not adequately address environmental impacts which occurred between 1970 and 1990. The settlement achieves more environmental protection and restoration than would have been achieved through more years of continuing litigation over the EIR. The approval of the settlement sets in motion a large number of beneficial environmental projects that would probably not have been initiated if Court action had resulted in preparation of yet another EIR.

The MOU calls for a number of projects and studies

to benefit the environment of the Owens Valley. The most significant are:

1) The Lower Owens River Project. By the year 2003 the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will begin releasing water along 67 miles of the Owens River north of Owens Lake. Goals, schedules and commitments of minimum and maximum flows of water have been set. Riparian habitat will be created and improved, a waterfowl area of 1500 acres near Blackrock Springs and 325 acres at the Owens River delta will be created. An EIR and a management plan will be prepared for this project.

2) Additional Mitigations. By the year 2000 LADWP will supply 1600 acre feet of water per year to restore or establish and maintain 300-400 acres of wetland

3) Owens Valley Management Plans. LADWP will develop management plans for lands where there are problems caused by grazing or other uses. Priority will be given to riparian areas and sensitive habitats. Development of these plans must begin by 2002 and be completed by the year 2007. Los Angeles has NEVER had management plans for its thousands of acres of land in the Owens Valley nor has its grazing program EVER complied with the California Environmental Quality Act - always claiming an exemption.

4) Yellow-billed cuckoo habitat. By the year 2000 two critical riparian habitats for cuckoos, Hogback Creek and Baker Creek, will be evaluated and enhancement plans will be developed. Key provisions of the Long-term Groundwater Management Plan and EIR include:

1) Joint management of groundwater pumping by Inyo County and Los Angeles that prohibits groundwater mining and long-term damage to vegetation that is groundwater dependent.

2) Control of salt cedar (Tamarix), an exotic and destructive weed.

3) Revegetation of lands most severely impacted by LADWP's water pumping in the past.

4) Funding of the Inyo County Water Department by Los Angeles, in order that the county can independently monitor the management of the

valley's water and vegetation, and additional annual payments to Inyo County for its general fund and for parks.

Now that settlement has been reached, a series of timetables begins, lasting up to 10 years, that will lead to implementation of the MOU, Long Term Management Plan, and EIR mitigations. As signatories to the MOU, the Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee will be participating in planning for the restoration projects. There will be a lot of work to do to make sure that the restoration projects that are the promise of this historic settlement are implemented to the greatest benefit of our environment. It will also be important to monitor the actions of the City and County as they implement the Long Term Management Plan.

There will be many reports to review and comment on, and meetings to attend. CNPS members and other environmental groups must be kept informed. Your participation could be crucial to making sure the settlement is implemented properly. Just imagine 67 miles of rewatered river with rich riparian vegetation filled with bird song each springtime dawn. If you would like to be kept informed about the progress of restoration in the Owens Valley or if you would like to help with our efforts, please write:

.....Mark Bagley

Native Plant Notes

Native Plant Notes is a column for sharing techniques about how to grow our native plants. All contributions are welcome so let your ideas germinate.

Desert Colors in the Garden

Even when viewed at sixty m.p.h. along Highway 395, Apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) is one

of our showiest native plants, probably in spiring many roadside botany stops. Its glowing orange flowers are often seen along the roadsides and tucked in rocky locations in the Owens Valley and the foothills on either side. Apricot mallow has a wide range of distribution, occurring from 500 to 7500 feet in elevation from Mexico north to Utah.

With its fuzzy grey leaves and bright orange flowers, Apricot mallow makes a wonderful accent plant in the garden. It could be the focal point of a colorful landscape surrounded by some of its naturally occurring companions such as Desert allysum (*Lepidium fremontii*), Brittlebush (*Encelia actonii*), and Desert needlegrass (*Achnantherum speciosum*). In our hot and dry summer climate, Apricot mallow (and some of its above mentioned companions) can go through a dormant stage. Some well chosen native species could provide color during this time such as Horsebrush (*Tetradymia* spp.) or the Buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.)

The biggest concern with growing Apricot mallow in the garden is making it too happy. Rich soil and frequent watering may give wonderful results for a year or two, but beware of giving this plant too much of the good life.

Apricot mallow will die an early death if too well treated. Give it a lean soil, full sun, and a deep watering now and then. New plantings always need more frequent watering and a thick layer of organic mulch.

Apricot mallow has proven to be fairly easy to propagate from seed. The hardest part seems to be avoiding the irritating hairs on the fruits while cleaning the seeds. To germinate in the spring, good results have been produced by pouring just boiled water over the clean seeds and letting them soak for 24 hours. Sow the seeds in a soil-less potting medium, transfer to a sandy potting mix when plants are an inch or two high, then put out into the ground in the fall.

Good luck and enjoy fall planting!

.....Karen Ferrell-Ingram

Tree Lore

Tree Lore is a series by Andrew Kirk that will be

devoted to the identification, distribution and natural history of our native trees.

New Member

The Bristlecone Chapter Warmly Welcomes the
Following New Member

Kirsten Nielson
Lee Vining

Vince and Ann Yoders new address:

743 Windsor River Road
Windsor, CA 95492-8907

Next Newsletter Deadline: August 29th.

Thanks for all the timely contributions!!!!

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.
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