

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

*Annual Bristlecone Chapter Potluck
and Slideshow*

Wednesday, November 19, at 6:00 PM at the Big Pine Methodist Church on School Street. The potluck set up will begin at 6:00 and dinner will be at 6:30 sharp. Please bring your favorite slides and stories to our annual gathering.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 21** at 7:00 PM at the White Mtn. Research Station in Bishop. National Park botanist, Renee Beymer will be our speaker. Renee will provide us with "An Update on Death Valley National Park Vegetation Management".

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our first annual plant sale was a success! If you were not at the plant sale this year you really missed something. In fact, if you were not there in the first 30 minutes you would of not have been able to buy any plants. People were actually standing in line for the sale to start. We sold everything we had so I think next year we might want to grow twice as many plants. Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale and with growing the plants. I especially want to thank Karen Ferrell-Ingram and Anne Halford for making the plant sale possible. Those two really put in a lot of work and kept the ball rolling to get things done. Boy, wait tell you see what we have for sale next year!

Our chapter has also recently put together a beautiful display board highlighting chapter activities that we can take to public events. Mark Bagley is keeping it at his house for now and anyone that would like to take the display board to schools, fairs etc. is encouraged to do so and should contact Mark.

Cecil Patrick Jr. is busy getting some more of our chapter T-shirts made and Diane Payne has graciously agreed to be our book sales person. Now that I have everyone doing my work I think I will sit back and smoke a cigar! Don't forget to bring some of your slides to the pot luck this month - I'll see you there!

.....Scott Hetzler

Bristlecone Chapter Field Trips

Fall has definitely arrived in the Eastern Sierra and with it the end of our chapter's field trip season. With 15 trips this year, in addition to the 8 conducted during our Sierra Spring Sojourn weekend, we had quite a varied and successful season. I would like to especially thank all of our trip leaders: Vince Yoder, Betty Gilchrist, Bob Love, Jim Shevock, Scott Hetzler, Anne Halford, Sally Manning, Doris Fredendall, Steve Ingram, Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Kathleen Nelson, Richard Potashin, Lynna Walker, Daniel Pritchett, and Carla Scheidlinger. Thank you, without your generous support we wouldn't have field trips. Thank you also to those interested and interesting people who attended our field trips, particularly those who so graciously agreed to write field trip reports for our newsletter. Here's hoping we have a wet winter that brings abundant wildflowers next spring and summer.

..... Mark Bagley, Field Trip Chair

Upcoming Chapter Activities

Volunteers Needed to carefully photocopy Mary DeDecker's hundreds of flora data base cards. The Memorandum of Understanding between the state CNPS and the Inyo National Forest who will provide the high tech. copying machine and paper, has finally been signed and we are now seeking volunteers to assist with this monumental but necessary task. Currently Mary's cards are the only copy of her life's botanical collecting work. As discussed at previous chapter board and general meetings it is our chapter's goal to first photo copy these cards and then set up an electronic database that will capture this incredibly valuable resource.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort please contact either Kathleen Nelson at 873-2400 or Anne Halford at 873-6714.

Native Seed Cleaning Party; Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 PM. Yes to grow all that bounty we saw at the plant sale does require cleaning those lovely little seeds. Please join us for these autumn ritual at Karen Ferrell-Ingram's home on 352 Willow St. in Swall Meadows. Please contact Karen at 387-2913 for further information and directions.

Field Trip Reports

Red Rock Canyon

September 27-Leader: Anne Halford

There were few flowers to be seen on the field trip in late September to Red Rocks, the Native American archeological site in the Volcanic tablelands north of Bishop. Instead there were dirty hands, dirty knees, blowing dust and a great sense of satisfaction. Chapter volunteers planted native plants on an old road that had been closed to deter over-use and vandalism of the petroglyphs.

The plants, four-winged salt bush (*Atriplex canescens*), apricot globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), and desert needle grass (*Achnatherum speciosum*), were grown from seeds and cuttings that were collected in and around the Red Rocks area. Revegetation projects are a great way to give something back to the environment that we all love.

Working together under the beautiful and intriguing petroglyphs, we felt privileged to have made a small contribution to the health of that landscape.

.....Karen Ferrell-Ingram

Conservation/Legislation

Action Alert - Rainbow Talc Mine Threatens Death Valley Wilderness

Excerpts taken from the Desert Survivors Action Alert Newsletter

One million tons of talc would be mined over the next 5 years in the Saddle Peak Hills in the southern end of Death Valley National Park. Antiquated mining laws which are a current target for reform, provide loopholes for mining claims, which are often taken advantage of when operations are in Wilderness Areas. The Park Service (NPS) is required to regulate such mining operations to protect the park's resources, however to date only a scant Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Rainbow Talc mining operation has been completed.

Legally, whenever a significant action is proposed on Public Land federal land management agencies are required to conduct an extensive study and analysis in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Not only does an EIS require more in-depth analysis, but it also gives the public a greater opportunity to comment. The fear is that if this kind of operation is merely analyzed and approved under

an Environmental Assessment process a dangerous precedent may be set that will encourage the operation of other mines.

You can help stop this threat to the incredible wilderness values of Death Valley National Park by doing the following items:

- 1) Ask the NPS to send you a copy of the current Environmental Assessment (EA).
- 2) Write a letter stating that the EA does not provide sufficient detail and depth. For example, despite the presence of several sensitive bat species and the fact that this is one of the top areas in the state for bat maternity use, the NPS has not completed a bat survey. In fact, the EA admits that "disturbance...would cause female bats to drop their young or abandon the site altogether," and that "mining activities would disturb and displace most if not all of the bats.
- 3) Also state that an EIS needs to comprehensively assess the natural and cultural values of the site and all possible impacts to those values from this operation. Without this information, it is impossible for the NPS to make an informed decision regarding this project.

Send comments and your requests by November 14 to:

Richard Anderson
Environmental Specialist
Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, CA 92328

Please also send copies of your comments to Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer:

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Native Plant Notes

The dry, rocky slopes that edge the Owens Valley are home to the jewel-like chia (*Salvia columbariae*). Its grey-green and bristly leaves are mostly basal and the

square stemmed inflorescence has clusters of prickly purple-blue bracts and blooms. Chia is a resilient annual that can vary in size from several inches to several feet depending on moisture levels and location.

Chia has a long history throughout the southwest as a nutritionally rich food plant. There were three similar *Salvia* species that were known as chia and grown as a food crop alongside corn and other vegetables. Its nutritious seeds were ground into a flour and mixed with water to make a gruel used for soothing stomachs and quenching thirst. Chia seeds are still sold today in local health food stores.

Chia seeds also appear to be sought after by animals and insects and have consequently evolved into different ecotypes which have seeds that are colored in shades of brown and grey similar to the soil in which they are growing. When these cryptically colored seeds fall to the ground they have a better chance of not becoming snack-food to passing rodents and birds.

While research has shown that these different ecotypes of Chia have different requirements for germination, acceptable germination rates have been achieved with the simple "moist paper towel treatment." This involves placing chia seeds between moist paper towels and putting the towels inside plastic bags or containers. Many seeds will sprout after several days if the paper towels are kept moist and out of the sun. Sow these sprouted seeds either into pots with a well-draining potting mix or into the ground.

Chia is a wonderful garden plant, attracting many interesting insects and blooming all summer. Irrigating every few weeks produces an almost lush (relatively, anyway) plant that is very different from the chia seen growing on gravelly hillsides in the wild.

.....Karen Ferrell-Ingram

Tree Lore

Tree Lore will continue in January with a series on conifers by Leroy Johnson, a retired forest geneticist and co-authored by, of course, Andrew Kirk who has faithfully contributed many intriguing articles.

Next Newsletter Deadline: December 31st

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.

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

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