

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

Our September meeting will be in Lone Pine on September 23 at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Mark Faull, Park Ranger and botanist from Red Rock Canyon State Park. Mark Faull is very knowledgeable about the park's diverse and interesting flora, and he will tell us about the unique aspects of Red Rock Canyon and its plants, which includes a few endemics not found outside of the area. Look in the September newsletter for the meeting place in Lone Pine.

**NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 21st at 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 this year's Spring Sojourn was quite a success. A record number of people attended - and why not, with all the rain we got this year. This is one event that takes lots of help from all our members. So thanks to all of you that helped out! Also in May, Anne Halford and Karen Ferrell-Ingram organized a dedication for The Deepest Valley Cooperative Native Plant Propagation Center housed at, and supported by, the University of California White Mountain Research Station. The event was well attended by chapter members who were able to see the many diverse native plants being grown and to enjoy some home made hors d'ouvres. If you haven't been out to the facility and seen all the plants we have growing for our plant sale, you can contact Karen who will still need our help in preparation for the September 12<sup>th</sup> event.

We have had a couple of changes on our board. Betty Gilchrist has stepped down as our Legislation chairperson and Kathy Duvall has been kind enough to take over. Doris Chretien has stepped down as historian and will be replaced by Sasha Stuart. Thank you Betty and Doris for helping out. We also still have Hospitality and Special Funding Committee chairs open for some nice person to fill.

Finally, don't forget our annual July Banquet and my trip to the sublime Buttermilks. Hope to see some of you there! Enjoy the summer!

.....Scott Hetzler

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

This month's annual Summer Banquet will be held at Whiskey Creek in Bishop on Wednesday, July 29, and will feature Jepson Herbarium Botanist, Dr. Dean Taylor, with a talk entitled "Plant Exploration in California: The Frontier is Still Here."

Dr. Taylor will inspire us all to continue our botanical endeavors that may lead to new discoveries! According to Dr. Taylor, California botanists continue to discover new species at the same pace as in the Gold Rush and he will emphasize that contrary to expectations, the flora of California is as poorly documented as some tropical regions. Dean feels the most exciting time in California botany is not the horse and buggy days... IT IS NOW!

The social gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a no host cocktail service, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by Dr. Taylor's slide presentation. This year's banquet menu offers a choice of vegetarian lasagna or pasta with chicken and pesto, with all meals including Caesar salad, garlic bread, tea or coffee, and a selection of cookies for dessert. The price, with tax and tip included, remains the same as last year at \$18.00. Such a bargain! Tickets must be purchased (or reserved for out-of-area visitors) no later than Friday, July 24. Tickets will be available from Scott Hetzler at WMRS (873-8392), Diane Payne in Bishop (872-3460), Betty Gilchrist in Lone Pine (876-4517), or Steve Ingram in Swall Meadows (387-2913). Hope to see you all there!

## Bristlecone Chapter Plant Sale

Thanks to some much appreciated help from volunteers, over one thousand plants are growing vigorously in anticipation of our second annual plant sale. The plant sale will be held on **Saturday, September 12th from 2-5 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop**. To volunteer for the plant sale (cashier, plant shuffler, sales people, gardening advisor, labeler, etc.), please call Karen at 387-2913. Volunteers will be rewarded with several free plants and lots of glory!

It is also time to think ahead to 1999's plant sale and spend some time collecting seeds. We need new and interesting things! If you collect it, we'll try and grow it. Please call Karen for information about collecting locations and requirements.

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## CNPS Bristlecone Chapter Summer Field Trips

**July 15, Wednesday. Birch Creek, west of the Buttermilks. Leader: Scott Hetzler.**

July 15, Wednesday. Meet at 9:00 am in the old Smart and Final parking lot in Bishop (just behind, i.e. west of, Joseph's Market). Birch Creek has a Jeffery pine-willow-birch riparian community surrounded by sagebrush scrub on the higher ground. In the past, the creek was impacted by water diversions for hydroelectric power, but over the last few years regular flows have returned. In addition to looking at the diversity of plants in these two habitats, we'll be looking at how the riparian area is recovering. High clearance vehicles only. Moderate walking, cross-country (no trails).

**July 18, Saturday. McGee Canyon, Sierra Nevada. Leaders: Kathy Duvall and Cathy Rose.** Meet at 9:00 am at the McGee Canyon trailhead parking lot (that's the McGee Canyon south of Convict Creek). This hike will be on the trail up canyon where we will see abundant displays of wildflowers and birds. Bring lots of water, lunch and your camera. For more information call Kathy at 387-2626 or Cathy at 935-4329.

**August 15-16, Sat.-Sun. Baboon Lakes, Sierra Nevada. Leader: Anne Halford.** One opening remains on the permit for this overnight backpack trip to these alpine lake gems, but day hikers are welcome! Please meet at 8:30 am at the overnight parking lot located near the North Lake turnout. To get to the parking area: from Hwy. 395 in Bishop, turn west on Line St. (Hwy. 168) and continue approximately 18 miles to Lake Sabrina. The hike will be moderate to strenuous starting at an elevation of 9,125 ft. and climbing to approximately 11,500 ft. Baboon Lakes are seated below the glaciated ramparts of Mt. Powell and Mt. Thompson. Round trip mileage will be 9-10 miles.

Please bring your regular backpacking supplies to include, but not limited to: tent, stove, sleeping bag, ground pad, food for 1 breakfast, 2 lunches and 1 dinner, first aid kit, clothing for heat and cold, water containers, water filter, personal supplies, camera, field guides, etc. Please contact Anne at (760) 873-6714 if you have any questions.

**August 22, Saturday. Wildflowers in the Tioga Pass Area, Sierra Nevada. Leaders: Kathy Duvall and Cathy Rose.** Meet at 9:30 am at the junction of Hwy. 120 and the Saddlebag Lake Road. The flowers

will be late coming out this year, so this trip will go where the flowers are blooming. All possible hikes will be moderate climbs at 9000 ft or higher. Bring lots of water, lunch and snacks for the day long trip. For more information call Cathy at 935-4329 or Kathy at 387-2626.

**September 12, Saturday. Indigenous Utility Plants of the Owens Valley.**

**Leader: Richard Stewart.**

Meet at 9:00 am at Mendenhall Park, Big Pine. A look at the plants that have provided food, medicine, fiber and other uses for the indigenous peoples of the Owens Valley. Trip will focus on the Big Pine area, mostly near the river. Easy walking. For more information call Richard at 760-938-2684 or e-mail: Richard\_Stewart@eee.org.

**October 10, Saturday. Aspen Color and Carvings. Leader: Richard Potashin.**

Look for details in the September newsletter.

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 mosquito repellent, 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 or e-mail: markbagley@qnet.com.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### *Eureka Dunes Rare Plant Mapping - April 11<sup>th</sup>*

A blustery early April morning brought seven hearty plant lovers out to Eureka Dunes to assist Death Valley acting botanist Arnie Peterson with the mapping of the Eureka Valley evening primrose (*Oenothera californica* ssp. *eurekensis*) and (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *micans*). The goal of the day was to update past mapping efforts and again establish a baseline from which to detect plant population trend, which is even more important than ever due to the increased use of the area by sand boarders.

We broke up into two teams with Geographical Positioning Units (GPS) strapped to our backs and headed from the parking lot east covering the northern flanks of the dune complex. The wind was strong, but it didn't detract from the exquisite blooms of the primrose that appeared in the fine, tawny colored sand.

Along the way some visitors wondered what in the world we were up to with these strange apparatus protruding from our backpacks, but we used this opportunity to tell them why these plants and their habitat were so important to protect. Most of the people we encountered were genuinely unaware that the area even had rare plants and were pleased to see the primrose, dunegrass and milkvetch and find out more about their ecology.

As late afternoon approached, the wind calmed and the light of the desert turned the dunes a golden hue. It was a rewarding day and as we ambled back along those rolling sand waves, we all felt fortunate to be in

such a special place and thought about all those stalwart individuals like Mary DeDecker and Bruce Pavlik and the many others who fought so hard to protect the Eureka Dunes.

The digital data we collected that day however is only as good as the commitment of the park managers to use such information to protect these rare species and the fragile habitat that sustains them. We all hope that they will honor the tenet of public trust by preserving the incredibly diverse and rare ecology of Eureka Dunes into perpetuity. Letters from you supporting such protection are still needed.

.....Anne Halford

### *Lane Mountain Milk-vetch - April 25-26th*

Kramer Junction was a busy meeting place on April 25th for nine plant enthusiasts who wanted to see the federally proposed endangered species, the Lane Mountain milk-vetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*). Our travels initially took us east of Hwy 395, just north of the junction, to a quiet pole line road where we first discovered three other rare species. At two sites we saw many small clumps of Barstow woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum mohavense*, CNPS List 1B). This plant is only one-half inch to two inches in diameter and only one-quarter to one-half inch tall. It has the tiniest of yellow flowers with leaves each having three tiny teeth on the tips.

Growing nearby was the larger prostrate Mojave spineflower (*Chorizanthe spinosa*, CNPS List 4). Further down the road, we also saw the showy blooms of desert Cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*, CNPS List 1B) another rare plant known only in the west-central part of the Mojave Desert. Two small desert

tortoises near the road graced our visit as we were leaving the area to continue our afternoon north of Barstow.

After winding our way through Barstow and finding a campsite at Rainbow Basin, we headed north to Coolgardie Mesa where we met Connie Rutherford and Ray Bransfield from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

They directed us to a nearby *Astragalus jaegerianus* population that they have been monitoring. It took a little while to train our eyes to see this delicate plant hidden in the canopy of the shrubs. The entire known range of this plant occurs between Barstow and Goldstone in a area no more than 13 miles in diameter. What an honor it was to be among only a few dozen people who have seen this inconspicuous, delicate, yet very beautiful plant.

The next day we headed northeast of Lane Mountain, just west of the Fort Irwin National Training Center, and again to our excitement found *Astragalus jaegerianus* at three additional sites. Standing on the boundary of the military base, looking into absolutely barren tank training areas from our very lush, prolific, untouched habitat, we realized the importance of getting out into the field and seeing what we have to lose on our public lands. There was this wonderful plant growing peacefully, not knowing the impending consequences of the proposed Fort Irwin expansion project. Writing letters to express our concerns cannot be over emphasized. Thank you Mark Bagley for leading this unforgettable field trip.

..... Kathy Duvall

### *Owens Valley Alkali Meadows - May 30<sup>th</sup>*

Driving along Highway 395 at 65 miles an hour, one gets few hints of the green alkali meadows scattered throughout the Owens Valley floor. These meadows are found in areas with a shallow water table, where the high evaporation rates of our climate cause salts to accumulate near the soil surface.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Sally Manning led a field trip to look at eight different examples of alkali meadows between Big Pine and the Volcanic Tablelands north of Bishop. Besides numerous grasses and sedges, we saw many flowering plants, including the rare endemic Owens Valley checkerbloom (*Sidalcea covillei*), Inyo County mariposa lily (*Calochortus excavatus*), and aquatic frog's-bit buttercup (*Ranunculus hydrocharioides*); all three of these species are found but a stone's throw from Sally's house on the east edge of Bishop. Lunch was at an idyllic spot beside the Owens River south of Laws. We ended the day looking at two alkali meadows degraded by human activity. The first is near Jean Blanc Road, where there has been extensive ground water pumping, the second is on lower Horton Creek, where the stream is cutting headward robbing the meadow of surface water. The headcut probably resulted from alterations downstream decades ago that changed the hydrologic profile.

.....Mary Allen

### *Lower Rock Creek - June 13<sup>th</sup>*

My husband and I are fairly new comers to this area, so when Steve Ingram and Karen Ferrell-Ingram asked us if we would be

interested in joining them on a field trip with CNPS, we gladly accepted. They would lead a group along the rim of Lower Rock Creek Gorge. The area we explored Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> was one we had driven by many times as it's on the way to and from town for us, and we had often caught glimpses of sulphur buckwheat, apricot globe mallow and purple sage. Many people may assume that not much grows in this

high desert environment. It looks so dry and, well, just sage-brushy. Sure, over the past few years of living here we'd been awed by the paintbrush and penstemons and early desert peach in bloom, but little did we realize the wealth of bloom just steps outside our car.

The group this glorious sunny day included around 20 people anxious to be outside after experiencing the coldest, wettest spring in years. We hardly had taken more than a few steps when we were rewarded with the first of our day's many treasures, the low growing wild onion (*Allium* sp.), which became a constant companion for the rest of the morning. The wispy delicate Indian rice grass (*Achnantherum hymenoides*) was also abundant and many of us relished stroking it.

From tall golden forget-me-nots (*Cryptantha confertiflora*), gold buttons (*Erigeron aphanactis*) and stately desert larkspur (*Delphinium parishii*) to tiny tidytips (*Layia glandulosa*) and yellow-throats (*Phacelia bicolor*), we were able to imagine bouquets in our own yards. Actually there were several "rock gardens" so perfectly laid out, a landscape architect would be put to task to duplicate them. One included rock cress (*Arabis pulchra*), green sandwort (*Arenaria macradenia* v. *macradenia*), a Mojave prickly-pear (*Opuntia erinaceae* v. *erinaceae*), and a

really full purple sage (*Salvia dorrii* v. *dorrii*).

It was fun to have someone show me things I might have missed, like three hearts (*Tricardia watsonii*) usually hidden within some shrub, and the velvety bags under the woolly locoweed (*Astragalus parishii*). It was also great knowing you could turn to someone and ask for the umpteenth time what the name of that pretty little purple flower was...*Phacelia distans*.

The Mountain pennyroyal (*Monardella odoritissima*) was in bud as were many Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus bruneaunis*). We had a perfect set up where the two Ephedras (*Ephedra nevadensis* and *E. viridis*) were growing side by side, thus allowing us to differentiate their distinguishing color and growth patterns. Jackpot!!!... The Kennedy and Wright buckwheats (*Eriogonum kennedyi* and *E. wrightii*) cooperated equally! Then there were the other numerous buckwheats, (not that they aren't grand... I just can't sort them all out), but I know from my trip list that we saw *Eriogonum heermanii*, *E. nudum*, two varieties of *E. umbellatum*; *nevadense* and *chlorochilum*. We also saw two different spineflowers, *Chorizanthe brevicornu* v. *spathulata* and *C. watsonii*.

Humorously, at one time we spotted a Douglas' pincushion (*Chaenactis douglasii*) beside a clump of needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*)! The desert figwort (*Scrophularia desertorum*) was equally dear. Wonderful smells were present. Great Basin sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and desert ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggii* v. *vestitus*) always fill the air (especially wonderful after rain) in these mountains, but you had to get down on all fours to inhale the fragrant cryptantha (*Cryptantha utahensis*)! We were also on a quest to see the rare and

elusive *Mentzelia torreyi*, which greeted us shortly after lunch.

At the end of a trip, people always ask, "What was your favorite thing?" For me, there is no question. I fell totally in love with spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*)! For variety in subtle color, you can't beat it. For my husband... I'm sure it was getting to befriend a horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*) and having Bea spot that speckled rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*).

.....Lynn Peterson

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### 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.

#### Mountain Pennyroyal

Mountain pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*) in the garden invokes the wonders found in high elevation plant life. It is trim and tidy, normally not taller than 15" high. Its foliage is grey-green, a glaucous shade that looks good against granite. Individual flowers are not extravagant but the lavender beauties are produced abundantly on upright heads that cover the plant. Mountain pennyroyal in bloom is usually mobbed by gangs of bees and butterflies. And finally, this is a plant that encourages and rewards petting - the slightest touch releases a tangy mint aroma that clears the head and invigorates the senses.

While Mountain pennyroyal may inspire

reveries about the glories of wild alpine gardens, it is actually a wide ranging plant, occurring from three to 10,000 feet in elevation, usually on dry, rocky slopes.

In the garden, Mountain pennyroyal is a fast grower, blooming in early summer and dying back to the ground in the winter. It looks best in full sun and requires a sandy, well draining soil. Once established in the garden, it should need either no supplemental watering or only infrequently, depending on the elevation. Hungry animals seem to have no interest in nibbling or gorging on this pungently powerful plant.

Mountain pennyroyal is a breeze to propagate. Seeds respond quickly to cold stratification, germinating in a month or less. Make a place in your dry garden for this gem and you'll never again have to struggle up steep, rocky trails in search of that special alpine aroma.

.....Karen Ferrell-Ingram

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**Next Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday,  
August 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks contributors!!!!**



## 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    |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Life                           | \$1,000.00 |
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Please make check payable to: The California Native Plant Society. **Mail to:** Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS. P.O. Box Drawer 989, Lone Pine, CA 93526.

**Gift Contribution:** Where most needed \_\_\_\_\_ . Conservation \_\_\_\_\_.

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