

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Our September meeting will be in Lone Pine at the Lone Pine High School library (1 block east of Hwy 395) at 7:00 pm, Sept. 23. The speaker will be Mark Faull, Park Ranger and botanist from Red Rock Canyon State Park. His talk is entitled "A Season of Color: Red Rock Canyon's Wildflowers." Mr. Faull's slide presentation will cover the flora of this 27,000 acre park, with its endemic, rare, and other interesting plant species. Our speaker will also discuss the many unique geological features of Red Rock Canyon State Park.

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Doris Fredendall's residence in Big Pine. All chairpersons are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please note that the location of the meeting may be changed, please contact Vice President Steve Ingram at 387-2913 for confirmation before the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How about this for some real arm chair reading?

Last month your President finally got to take a little time off from work and go on a vacation. I went to visit my brother Brent over at Dinosaur National Monument. He is there watching Peregrin Falcons to see how successful they are at raising their young. I was lucky enough to be able to spend 4 days floating down the Yampa River and now I am rested up for the work ahead which is to get ready for the fall plant sale. This year lets see if we can't sell twice as many plants in 15 mintues as we did last year!

I recently received a number of copies of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Societys newsletter. If you would like to find out about their up coming field trips, etc. give me a call. Bette Sisson who has been our very fine Publicity Chairperson for quite awhile has stepped down. Who out there will rise to the occassion and step forward as our new Publicity Chairperson?

The job Bettie was doing is very important for letting the general public know what our up coming chapter events are. Please let's not have much time go by before filling this position. Thank you Bettie for the fine job you did.

.....Scott Hetzler

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS and HIGHLIGHTS

Bristlecone Chapter Plant Sale

The plant sale will be held on **Saturday, September 12th from 2-5 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop**. Please contact Karen Ferrell-Ingram at 387-2913 for more information.

National Award Given to Bristlecone Chapter Vice President

Steve Ingram, botanist and professional photographer recently received a prestigious national award from the National Wildlife Federation for his photograph titled *Star Trails on Bristlecone Pine*. Steve's entry won him first place in the landscape division of the Wildlife Federation's annual photography contest and he will be traveling to Washington D.C. this month to receive the award. Congratulations Steve!

CNPS Bristlecone Chapter Fall Field Trips

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.
Cancelled.

October 23, Friday. Seed Cleaning Party.

Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the White Mtn. Research Station. It's time to get all those seeds for next years native plant progeny cleaned and prepared. Please bring sieves and/or colanders to assist in cleaning. Call Karen at 387-2913 for more information.

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.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

McGee Canyon---July 18th

On a summer day when it was 102° in Bishop and 92° at Tom's Place, six people joined leaders Kathy Duvall and Cathy Rose for a botanical stroll up McGee Canyon. The mountains at the head of the canyon, the spectacular reds, browns, and grays of Sierran metamorphics, are dominated by Mt. Baldwin at 12,614'.

Although other hikers were powering through the sagebrush flats to reach the shade of Western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis* var. *australis*) and limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) farther up the trail, the small CNPS group willingly endured the heat to admire the colors provided by waves of yellow mule's ears (*Wyethia mollis*) and arrow-leaved balsam- root (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), pink skyrocket Gilia (*Ipomopsis*

aggregata) and Great Basin painbrush (*Castilleja linariifolia*), blue stickseed (*Hackelia micrantha*), two kinds of mariposa lily (*Calochortus bruneaunis* and *C. leichtlinii*), bright red *Penstemon rostriflorus*, and a border of white-spurred lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*). Grasses such as needle and thread and Indian rice grass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) are also a feature of the sagebrush-bitterbrush landscape.

The trail crosses several streams, bordered by dense tangles of willow (*Salix boothii*, *S. exigua*, *S. scouleriana* and water birch (*Betula occidentalis*). Pat Crowther, who had recently attended Lucy Parker's basketry class offered by the Mono Lake Committee, collected some willow sprigs and stripped off the leaves as she walked.

We gathered in the shade of junipers and aspen for lunch. During the time the rest of us were eating and observing a house wren and a red-breasted sapsucker feeding young at their cavity nests in aspen, Pat's deft fingers worked to create two baskets. As we watched in wonderment, the willow branches became a small basket that resembled an exquisite bird's nest and a larger cone-shaped basket that Pat explained would have been used by Native Americans as a trap for capturing birds.

Thus the expected pleasure of enjoying flowers on a July day blended with the unexpected artistic contribution of one of our chapter's long-time members. Thank you Pat, for adding a special feature to a special day.

.....Cathy Rose

Baboon Lakes - August 15th - 16th

A glorious time was had on the overnight field trip to Baboon Lakes. By 9:00 a.m. nine of us shouldered packs and were meandering along the Lake Sabrina Trail admiring the myriad flowers in bloom. Checking our plant lists we ambled up the mountain, taking in the grandeur of near and far. Over the next few hours, Anne pointed out about eighty species of wildflowers, most new to my coast-dwelling eyes. Standing tall in my mind are the ranger's buttons (*Sphenosciadium capitellatum*), Sierra juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis* var. *australis*), four species of pine, the graceful red heads of blue-joint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), the deep blue of mountain larkspur (*Delphinium glaucum*), and the lovely, muted yellows and pinks of the alpine columbine (*Aquilegia pubescens*).

Shorter in stature, I was happy to meet, or become more familiar with the little golden sedge (*Carex aurea*), the mat-like arctic willow (*Salix arctica*), the soon-to-be-edible dwarf bilberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*), and the ever-present red and white heathers and Kalmia.

Surely my senses will long remember the minty-spicy mountain pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*), the heady perfume of the granite gilia (*Leptodactylon pungens*), the almost too tangy flavor of mountain sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*), and the delicate drink brewed from western Labrador tea (*Ledum glandulosum*).

After Saturday's lunch at Blue Lake, we picked up the pace, marching to the tune of rolling thunder, light rain, and humming mosquitoes. Arriving at Baboon Lakes, we briefly took in the rim of towering peaks draped in snow before diving into our tents to warm up.

In a couple of hours the rain cleared and the

light streamed in golden over the basin. Much meadow exploring was in order and we discovered many new wonders lying like jewels in the soft, verdant knolls that hugged the lakeshores.

.....Ellen Holmes, Santa Cruz Chapter

Conservation

Regular readers may recall an article in the May issue discussing a plan to build a Southern-California-style subdivision at the site of Rovana (the former company town for the tungsten mines in Pine Creek Canyon). It is with pleasure that I report that the staff at the Bishop Office of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has come up with a very desirable alternative to the proposed subdivision.

They suggest that the property be purchased by the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for mule deer habitat and have submitted a formal proposal to the Board to this end. Should the WCB purchase the property it would be managed by the DFG. In the ranking process used by the WCB to determine its priorities the proposal scored very highly. The WCB now needs to know that there is public support for this proposal and that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors do not oppose it.

The proposed purchase would protect native vegetation that in turn sustains native wildlife populations. Given the recent fires (the ongoing Mt. Tom fire, which has burned about 3,500 acres, and the Buttermilk fire in 1995 that burned 5000 acres) in the winter range of the Round Valley deer herd, the proposed purchase is particularly timely.

We congratulate the local DFG staff for

coming up with a proposal in which the public, the ecosystem, and the current property owner would all get fair treatment.

Those interested in this issue should write **Mr. John Schmidt, Executive Director, California Wildlife Conservation Board, 801 K. Street, Suite 805, Sacramento, CA 95814.** Remember to contact your County supervisor as well! The purchase will not occur if the Inyo County Supervisors oppose it.

.....Daniel Pritchett

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

.....Karen Ferrell-Ingram

Book Review

The University of Nevada Press, Reno, Nevada (1996) has added another fine publication to its list of books dealing with the flora of the Great Basin: *Atlas of Nevada Conifers: A Phytogeographic Reference* by David Alan Charlet. This paperback volume is expensive (\$35.00) but it packs into its 320 pages almost everything botanists or foresters would want to know about the distribution of Nevada's conifers.

Twenty-one of the state's conifers are superbly illustrated by Bridget Keimel. Nevada's three firs are not illustrated, but they are mapped. The illustrations for *Pinus labertiana* and *P. monticola* are somewhat misleading. The older needles on both these illustrations show persistent needle-bundle sheaths, which they do not have. She probably drew the illustration using current needles that have sheaths and assumed the older needles were so adorned.

The book has a wealth of information. Did you know Nevada has 314 discrete mountain ranges, each with a name! Dr. Charlet mapped and numbered each of these ranges (page 2) but the reader has to hunt for the list of ranges that correspond to the numbers (page 307-305).

Dr. Charlet extended the ranges for many conifers during his numerous trips to most of these mountain ranges. Recorded, reported, and possibly extinct occurrences of each species are pinpointed on the range maps and in each species' narrative there are supporting range data.

Occurrences, bases on the author's personal

observations and his review of voucher specimens in numerous herbaria attest to the accuracy of the atlas. Throughout the text he describes species occurrences by counties; however, there is no map showing the county boundaries. Location data are recorded by township, range, and section rather than latitude and longitude.

For those of us not intimately familiar with Nevada's geography, adding a map with the county boundaries, major cities, rivers and lakes would have been a great aid to the reader (the Press has such a map in their *Nevada Place Names* book). We know nothing about the author and the artist because the Press did not include information on them.

For those of you who "botanize" Nevada, I highly recommend adding this book to your library.

.....LeRoy Johnson

New Members

The Bristlecone Chapter Warmly Welcomes
the Following New Members

Wendy Bailey
Bishop

Katherine Korotaj
San Jose

Jack Murphy
Deep Springs College
Dyer, NV

Beverly Schroeder
Bishop

Richard Stewart
Big Pine

Lynna Walker
Bishop
Cooley and Charles Washburn
Bishop

Sue Weis
Bishop

Alan and Joan Woodman
Ridgecrest

**Next Newsletter Deadline: Friday,
October 30th.** Please send contributions to
the newsletter editor, Anne Halford at: 312
Shepard Lane, Bishop, 93514 or email them
(I would greatly prefer this!) in text (ASCII)
file format to: ahalford@ca.blm.gov

Thanks for all the great contributions - keep
them coming!

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"/> Benefactor	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$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. P.O. Box Drawer 989, Lone Pine, 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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