

**DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE FLORA**

## The California Native Plant Society



### Bristlecone Chapter

CNPS Horticulture Program Director Peigi Duvall will present ideas for using California native plants to conserve resources while creating beautiful landscapes. She will discuss some local issues such as fire safe landscaping, deer/rodent/rabbit resistant plants, and availability of local native plants. Peigi is from the Santa Clara Valley and designs native gardens in the SF Bay Area.

#### Next Board Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Board will meet on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the USFS/BLM Conference Room, 351 Pacu Lane in Bishop. Everyone is welcome.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our September speaker, Peigi Duvall, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, will be talking about the CNPS Horticulture program which advocates landscaping with natives in order to conserve resources, contribute to a healthy ecosystem and create beautiful gardens. We have asked Peigi to address issues that are important and perhaps unique to our chapter, for example, how local native plants and seeds should be, how to deal with the limited supply of local natives, and the use of native vegetation and fire safety. This promises to be a very interesting meeting and I hope you will plan to come.

Before the program you will be able to order native plants for your garden from this year's Plant Sale!

.....Sherryl Taylor

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#### Next Chapter Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Meeting will be held at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Our program will be "CNPS Horticulture Program: Going Native, Landscaping with Ecological Integrity" presented by Peigi Duvall, CNPS Horticulture Program Director.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2006 Native Plant Sale

**Dear eastern Sierra gardeners,**  
The plant sale **Preview** will be held immediately before the regular CNPS meeting on Wednesday, September 27. From 6:00-7:00 PM an informal preview to the sale and native plant gardening discussion will take place at the plant propagation center at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop (see **note below about the interesting meeting to follow the Plant Sale Preview**). At that time, interested gardeners can place orders for limited quantities of plants which will be available for pick-up the following Saturday and other times during the following week (TBA).

Highlights of this sale include the rosy penstemon (*Penstemon floridus* ssp. *floridus*), white evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa* ssp. *marginata*), prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata* and *S. elata*), alkali sacaton grass (*Sporobolus airoides*), and the lovely and delicious (to deer), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*).

**Shrubs and perennials are in cups and/or gallons. \$3.50 - \$6.50 each**  
**Grasses are in supercells. \$2.00 each**

Please contact [ingram@bishopwireless.net](mailto:ingram@bishopwireless.net) for a plant list and for more information. CNPS members will be given priority when orders are filled. Thanks for your interest in growing natives! Please forward this message to others who may be interested.

**October 14, Saturday. Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden Fall work party.**  
Leader: Jerry Zatorski. Fall is a great time to clean up the garden, sow wildflower seeds and attend to what ever else might need to be done. There will be some general garden cleaning and some native wildflower seeds to be sown. We'll meet at the garden at the Eastern California Museum in Independence at 9:00 AM, bring garden gloves, trowels, hand pruners, fluids and snacks, and wear sturdy work clothes. For more information contact Jerry Zatorski at 872-3818 or [jerryzat@verizonmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@verizonmail.com).

**October 22, Sunday. Highway clean-up.**  
Leader: Scott Hetzler. Meet at the intersection of Highway 395 and Pine Creek Rd., west of 395, at 9:00 AM. We will try to be done by 1:00 PM. For more information, call Scott Hetzler at 873-8392.

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### Bristlecone Chapter Seeks New Officers for 2007

The Nominations Committee is in the process of putting together a slate of Bristlecone Chapter officers for 2007. The Committee hopes to announce it's proposed slate at the September general meeting, and voting will be conducted at the November meeting. If you are interested in participating on the Bristlecone Board, we have a variety of ways in which members may contribute. Please think about volunteering to be part of a small group that accomplishes quite a bit. It's fun, and it's rewarding to know you're doing your part for the native plants that can't speak for themselves. For more information, contact Sally Manning, (760) 873-3790.

## Fall 2006 Bristlecone Chapter Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant Program

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is pleased to request applications for its small grants program in memory of renowned local botanist, Mary DeDecker. We believe this program is a fitting way to remember Mary's many contributions to the people and plants of the eastern Sierra. The program will award up to two grants of not more than \$500 each.

The purpose of these grants is to facilitate research and projects that increase the understanding and appreciation of our region's native flora and ecosystems. There are a wide range of appropriate possible subjects for funding, from basic taxonomic or ecological research to a school garden featuring native plants and their pollinators. The only requirement is that the project be relevant to the native plants of the northern Mojave Desert, Sierra Nevada, and Great Basin portions of eastern California.

### Criteria and Procedures

Written proposals are to be submitted to the Bristlecone Chapter Funding Committee. Proposals are limited to two pages in length. Each proposal should contain a title, objectives, methods, expected final product, a brief statement of applicant's qualifications and how Bristlecone Chapter funds will be used. If applicant is a student, an accompanying letter from their advisor would be welcome. Inclusion of an e-mail address will facilitate notification. **Deadline is December 8, 2006.**

Costs covered by these grants include supplies, travel, lodging, meals, services such as computer time, graphics, phone, copying, and film and processing. Non-

eligible costs include wages, typing, and costs unrelated to the project.

Applicants will be notified by **January 28, 2007**. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decisions. The committee may decide not to fund a grant in any given year.

A progress report explaining how Bristlecone Chapter funds were used will be due on completion of use of funds. Applicants are encouraged to either give a presentation of their research at a Bristlecone Chapter evening meeting or write a brief explanation of their research for inclusion in the Bristlecone Chapter newsletter.

Send proposals or requests for information to:

California Native Plant Society, Bristlecone Chapter c/o Edyth Irvine  
P. O. Box 100 – PMB 193 1934 Meridian Blvd. Mammoth Lakes CA. 93546  
(760) 924-5778  
Inquiries only: [res0iuim@verizon.net](mailto:res0iuim@verizon.net)

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## CONSERVATION

### Drought Recovery Policy threatened again or Everybody makes mistakes

#### Background

This is the latest chapter in a story beginning in 1991. That was the year the Drought Recovery Policy (DRP) was adopted as an "overlay" to the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) by the Standing Committee. The DRP's goal is recovery of "soil water in the rooting zone" to achieve the LTWA's vegetation protection goals. The DRP was adopted because of concern

that the LTWA's experimental "On/Off" management protocol would not be adequate to fully recover water tables from the enormous drawdowns DWP pumping caused during the drought of the late 1980's.

During the 1990's DWP recognized the DRP and water tables rose. In 2001, however, DWP interpreted imprecise language in the second paragraph (of the two-paragraph DRP) as allowing it to unilaterally terminate the policy even without realizing the goal of rooting zone recovery stated in the first. Inyo objected on both procedural and substantive grounds.

Rather than initiating Dispute Resolution proceedings over this issue, Inyo Supervisors agreed at the Standing Committee meeting in summer (June?) 2003, to a program of closed meetings between Inyo and DWP staff to develop an interim management plan to supersede the DRP. Inyo stated emphatically that if no agreement was reached by September 1, 2003, Inyo would initiate dispute resolution proceedings.

September 1, 2003, came and went. No dispute resolution proceeding was initiated, and meetings continued. By January 2004 then-Inyo CAO Rene Mendez and then-Water Department Director Greg James got involved. In spring 2004, Mendez and James presented Inyo Supervisors a DWP-backed interim management plan to replace the DRP. It was rejected unanimously because pumping limits were far too high.

#### **New chapter in the story**

On August 11, 2006, Inyo Water Department Director Tom Brooks proposed another interim management plan (IMP) to supersede the DRP. Unfortunately, Mr. Brooks' plan is even weaker than the interim

management plan rejected by Inyo Supervisors in 2004. While pumping limits in the 2004 plan were too high, they were at least limits. The IMP sets no pumping limits at all nor does it even contain a goal. It would simply require Standing Committee approval for each year's pumping program until revisions to the Green Book have been adopted.

By superseding the DRP with Brooks' goal-less IMP, Inyo would implicitly abandon the DRP's goal of water table recovery in the rooting zone. Since the LTWA itself doesn't explicitly require water table recovery at all, Inyo would be abandoning the most biologically defensible management policy to which DWP has ever agreed. Inyo would also be implicitly accepting DWP's self-serving and biologically meaningless definition of "recovery": 80% of the drawdown. Why Brooks would propose a policy with these implications is baffling. Everyone makes mistakes occasionally, and this is a whopper!

It's easy to second-guess, however, and I don't mean to be too critical. Mr. Brooks needs our support in his difficult job as head of the Water Department and he's making progress in developing a proposal for direct water table management to replace the disastrous On/Off protocol. I hope that by the time this article is printed, the not-ready-for-prime-time IMP will be withdrawn.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair

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#### **Field Trip Reports**

*Panamint Valley, March 25-26*

Ten of us met at Panamint Springs for a highly enjoyable two-day meander around

some of this year's floweriest spots in Panamint Valley. Day 1 began at Panamint Springs, with an overview of the diminutive, sparse creosote bush scrub of the valley floor. This barrenness was a stark contrast to the relative lushness of the flowing washes, canyons and upper alluvial plains that we were heading to. We stopped in a gravel wash upslope along state route 190, which was dotted with many colorful blooming annuals. We spent a good two hours admiring *Mohavea breviflora*, desert star (*Monoptilon belliodora*), several pretty annual buckwheats (*Chorizanthe rigida*, *C. brevicornu*, *Eriogonum thomasi*), *Gilia latifolia*, *Phacelia calthifolia*, and several *Camissonias*, and a number of other species.

Later on, we pilgrimaged up Wildrose Canyon Road to marvel at the ever-amazing Panamint daisies (*Enceliopsis covillei*) growing on the steepest of the talus barrens, and caught amazing vistas of the expansive white salt-covered playa to the west.

Back down on the playa, we visited an interesting alkali sink scrub patch with *Sueda*, *Allenrolphia occidentalis*, mesquite, and a bed of *Anemopsis californica*, along with spring-fed marsh species including stands of *Scirpus* neatly clipped down to stylish flattops by a recent herd of burros! Beds of yerba mansa and the salt-grass, *Distichlis spicata*, provided wonderful restful green to our parched eyes.

While on Saturday we braved powerful desert winds, by Sunday (after a fun starry-night campout), the winds had died down completely. Two side trips, up Pleasant and Surprise canyons offered an abundance of flowering plants, a gravelly wash actually running with water, and a riparian zone with several *Salix* sp., *Equisetum*, and stream orchids (*Epipactis gigantea*)! Amongst the

many other wash plants we enjoyed were the rock nettle (*Eucnide urens*), tiny pink *Mimulus bigelovii*, blooming *Datura*, *Mentzelia* sp., several *Phacelias*, and at least 5 species of *Cyrtanthe* (impressively field-keyed by our tireless and fearless leader!). We also had the wonderful surprise of a view of 11 female and juvenile desert bighorn sheep, browsing on large lush yellow-flowering clumps of *Camissonia cardiophylla* (heart-leaved evening primrose) upslope from our cars. A bit later we caught a glimpse of a rock-hugging chuckawalla rounding out the desert wildlife viewing for us.

Despite coming right after the over-the-top blooms of last year, the late rains and snows of this year provided more than enough flowering plants for a very enjoyable experience. Many thanks to Mark, Scott, Jerry, and the other Bristlecone members for hosting this fantastic trip!

.....Jerry Zatorski

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*Argus Range, April 29*

Last summer from my home in Inyokern I could see fires burning in the Argus Range to the northeast of the Indian Wells Valley. And later in the summer a terrific cloudburst caused flooding along Mountain Springs Canyon, pushing back the opening of the fall season tours to Little Petroglyph Canyon. These events got me to thinking that our new Creosote Ring subchapter might find much of interest in these areas come spring.

Both sites are within the boundaries of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and visiting them required security clearance from the Environmental Affairs Office on the Base. We were given permission for a field trip on the condition that we report our

findings to that Office. I contacted botanist Mark Bagley, knowing that he had done contract work on the Base in years past. I also knew his excellent reputation as a field trip leader. He graciously agreed to lead a trip if I would take care of the arrangements which I eagerly agreed to do.

On April 29, 14 participants (from as far away as Claremont and Santa Cruz) arrived together at the foot of Mountain Springs Canyon. We had our official badges and felt that this was a special opportunity. No one had been able to scout the area ahead of time and reports from the April Petroglyph trips were that little was blooming as the weather had been unusually cold. We spent some time exploring the lower elevation flora at the bottom of the canyon. 43 taxa were documented in this open landscape of Larrea-Ambrosia community. Our second stop was just below the actual site of Mountain Springs, elevation 4310 feet, where the flood waters has rushed down from above. 42 taxa were documented in the Mojave Mixed Woody Scrub Community on the north facing slopes along the south side of the road. 3 taxa were documented in south facing Creosote Bush Scrub.

After lunch at a former mine road, we pushed on to the top of the canyon where fire had raged two years ago, not knowing if we would find anything in bloom yet. To everyone's amazement, a beautiful carpet of *Gilia* (3 species) covered much of the area with many other annual flowers in bloom as well. We spent considerable time documenting flora in both the burned and unburned areas at this elevation of 5800 feet. 41 taxa were documented in the actual burn area to the south of the road, which is gently rolling & north facing. 32 taxa were documented in an unburned area on the north side of Bircham Springs Road, a

Sagebrush-Bitterbrush Community with scattered Joshua Trees. In the burn area all the shrubs had burned completely to the ground. Most of the Joshua trees had burned completely, but a few had some green growth remaining only at the tops of some of the branches. The outer bark-like layers were gone. Since these layers are not true bark with phloem layers in it, and the conducting vessels are deep within the trunk, these bear watching in the future, since little is documented about burned Joshuas. Most burned Joshua Trees had pups sprouting at the base. Only *Ephedra* and *Purshia* were 'stumpsprouting', but the sprouts were particularly vigorous (1' or more) here.

With the afternoon quickly passing, we turned off of the main road and pressed on toward Bircham Springs campground. It had burned completely and we paused only to use the primitive facilities and then backtracked a ways. Our second burn site, the July 2005 fire (one year burn), lay at 5710 feet. The area explored was about 1/3 the size of the first burn site. It was more east-facing with a drainage channel. The soil of looked similar, though much more black charcoal and soot was present since the burn was relatively more recent. But there were notable differences in vegetation, as born out by the species count for each area—this was a less diverse site overall. 28 taxa were documented in the burn area. 19 taxa were documented in an adjacent unburned area. The Joshua Trees in this location were much more widely spaced and smaller. All had burned. The bitterbrush that were resprouting were not as vigorous as those at the top of Mountain Springs Canyon. There were very few *gilia* here. Chia was the dominant annual. The unburned area was densely populated by blackbrush, sagebrush, some bitterbrush, some *Ephedra*, and on the whole was quite different from that at the

top of Mountain Springs. Even though the same elevation, this site is much drier and must be in a rain shadow from the higher peaks, whereas the top of the canyon obviously gets a little more moisture.

Although there were more areas to be explored we were required to leave the Base together by late in the afternoon. We all felt exhilarated by the renewed knowledge that fire is not a totally destructive force. We had seen so many species of lovely springtime desert flowers, some of which are obviously "fire followers" which is what one always hopes for on a CNPS field trip. We were fortunate to have Mark's exhaustive knowledge of the area's flora as a ready-to-hand resource. We were able to document the differences between the pre-burn landscape and areas that had felt the fierceness of fire, a first-hand lesson in fire-ecology.

Because this was such a fascinating trip, second trip was organized to see the progression of flora. 13 intrepid CNPS botanists returned to the burned areas on the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station on June 17, six weeks after our first sojourn there. As expected, the fire areas looked quite different—the array of annuals was strikingly different! On our first trip, the two year old burn was covered with Gilias and other delightful colors. In June all those were gone, and all that was evident on the ground was dried Cheat Grass. The one-year burn area showed a lot more stump-sprouting, to be expected, way fewer annuals, and lots more Cheat grass than was there in April. We did visit 2 more sites in the one-year burn area. However, we did find 17 new plants we had not seen in April. Vigorous resprouting in all sites of *Ephedra viridis*, *Purshia tridentata*, and some *Coleogyne* was observed, and the bunch

grasses were sending up new shoots. The willows at Bircham Springs are thriving after being burned, as are the many native grasses near the springs. Most all the burned Joshua trees have "pups" under them, and a few burned ones still have green leaves on top, giving hope that they will survive. Burned areas are always very interesting to watch regrowth, and so little is documented on most of them. It's important to educate our friends that burns, while initially devastating-looking, actually provide for regrowth and reshuffling of species number and distribution, a very natural occurrence in California and almost all ecosystems.

NOTE: Anyone who is interested may have a copy of the Checklist & Notes from the April 29 trip. Data from the second trip is still being compiled but will also be available later. Please contact Kathy LaShure [desert\\_encelia@verizon.net](mailto:desert_encelia@verizon.net) or 760-377-4541.

.....Kathy LaShure and Janet Westbrook

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### NEW MEMBERS

The Bristlecone Chapter warmly welcomes the following new members.

Eileen Dietz  
Ridgecrest, CA

Barbara Meggers  
Ridgecrest, CA

**Next Newsletter Deadline: October 28th**

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bristlecone Chapter Directory

#### Membership Category

___ Student, Limited Income	\$25.00
___ Individual	\$45.00
___ International	\$45.00
___ Family, Group, or Library	\$75.00
___ Supporting	\$75.00
___ Plant Lover	\$100.00
___ Patron	\$300.00
___ Benefactor	\$600.00
___ Mariposa Lily	\$1,500.00

President - Sherryl Taylor (760) 924-8742
Vice President - Sue Weis (760) 387-2349
Secretary - Denise Waterbury - (760) 873-4344
Treasurer - Rosanne Higley (760) 387-2803
Membership - Diana Pietrasanta - (760) 873-6262
Newsletter Editor - Anne Halford - (760) 873-6714
Conservation - Daniel Pritchett - (760) 873-8943
Plant Communities - Sally Manning - (760) 873-3790
Invasive Weeds - Brian Cashore - (760) 387-2789
Legislation - Kathy Duvall - (760) 387-2122
Education - Edyth Irvine (760) 924-5778
Programs - Sue Weis (760) 387-2349
Field Trips - Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
Native Plant Sales - Karen Ferrell-Ingram - (760) 387-2913
Decker Native Plant Garden - Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
Publicity - Ann Fulton - (760) 873-9261
Historian - Ann Fulton (760) 873-9261
Librarian - EvelynMae Nikolaus - (760) 878-2149
Rare Plant Committee - 2005 Chair - Anne Halford (760) 873-6714 hm., (760) 872-5022 wk.
Book Sales - Sue Weis (760) 387-2349

Please make membership checks payable to and send to:

CNPS - Membership Coordinator  
2707 K. Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816

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

**THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY** ([www.bristleconecnps.org](http://www.bristleconecnps.org)) 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 non-members and can be obtained by sending newsletter subscriptions to CNPS, P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93515-0364. Send newsletter articles not memberships to Newsletter Editor Anne Halford at 312 Shepard Lane, Bishop, CA 93514 - or email to: [kash@cebridge.net](mailto:kash@cebridge.net)

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