

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

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

**Volume 28 No. 2
March/April 2007**

Next Chapter Meeting

The next Chapter Meeting will be at the White Mountain Research Station on March 28th at 7:00 PM. Larry Blakely will be our speaker and his talk is titled; *Plants, People, and Places in the Life of Thomas Nuttall - 19th Century Botanist Extraordinaire.*

Born in Los Angeles, Larry Blakely is an 18 year resident of the Eastern Sierra and is active in the local Audubon chapter (stint as president, newsletter editor for 10 or so years) and was also

very active in the Bristlecone Chapter; writing newsletter articles and compiling all of Mary DeDecker's plant records into a digital database.

Larry formally retired from Cal State Pomona (aka Cal Poly Pomona) in 1990 after 27 years on the faculty. He has a PhD in Plant Physiology from Cornell University and a BA and MA in Botany from the University of Montana.

Next Board Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Board meeting will meet on Wednesday March 21st at 7:00 PM at the USFS/BLM Conference Room, 351 Pacu Lane in Bishop. Everyone is welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The March-April issue of the Bristlecone newsletter is my favorite! While here in Mammoth we are usually buried in snow when this issue arrives, there is a promise of blooming native plants on every page – especially in the field trip section. Field trips starting in March and lasting into fall are a reminder of how lucky we are to be able to find blooms in our region most of the year only by choosing the right location. When this newsletter comes, I mark my calendar for each field trip and other chapter event. I hope you will too. I'd like to spotlight two events. We invite

you to join us on Sunday, May 20th for morning and afternoon field trips in the Alabama Hills with a potluck picnic lunch in Betty Gilchrist's yard. Betty is a beloved chapter past president and a link to our chapter's history. These days our chapter meetings are held in Bishop and Mammoth and our Creosote Ring subchapter's meetings are held in Ridgecrest. This event is planned to bring us together for a day of good food and conversation and lots of blooms.

August 11-12 we will hold a SUMMER Sojourn at White Mountain Research Station's Crooked Creek Facility where the focus will be on alpine plants. Look for details about this exciting overnight elsewhere in this newsletter. Because space at the Sojourn is limited, we are announcing the event to our members first. Please sign up early so you will be able to join us at our first SUMMER Sojourn.

.....Sherryl Taylor

2007 Bristlecone Chapter Early Spring Field Trips

See newsletter insert for a complete Spring and Summer Field Trip List

March 18, Saturday. Crater Mountain Hike. Leader: Paul McFarland. Explore the otherworldly landscape of this black basaltic volcanic cone just south of Big Pine. A stroll to the volcano's peak will reward with expansive views up and down the Owens Valley. Moderately strenuous 5 mile roundtrip. Meet at 9am at the Big Pine Campground at the junction of 395 and 168. 2wd okay. For more information contact Paul at (760) 873-6400 or paulmc@friendsoftheinyo.org.

March 24, Saturday. Mary Dedecker Native Plant Garden Spring Cleaning. Leader: Jerry Zatorski. This is an annual spring cleaning for the garden. March is a

great time to jump on any exotic weeds and get them out before they drop their seed as well as trim up anything that might need it. We'll meet at the garden at the Eastern California Museum in Independence at 9:00 AM, bring garden gloves, trowels, hand pruners, and wear sturdy work clothes. For more information contact Jerry at (760) 872-3818 or jerryzat@verizonmail.com.

March 25, 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 contact Scott at (760) 873-8392.

March 31, Saturday, Kern River Valley.

Leader: Alison Sheehy. Although the winter rains have been paltry, hope remains that there will be lower elevation wildflowers this year. With its intersection of desert, grassland, forest & riparian ecosystems, the Kern River Valley may be just the spot for an early season flower foray. The exact valley locations and route will be determined by where the best spring blooms are. Those coming from the Indian Wells Valley or points north should meet at the Inyokern Post Office at 8:15 AM to carpool to Scodie Park (Scodie Rd. & Cypress Ln.) in Onyx, arriving there at 9:00 AM. If coming from the south or west, just meet at the Park at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch, ample water, sunscreen, camera, binoculars if you're interested in birds. Hiking will be minimal. For more information contact Alison at (760) 378-2029 or natureali@lightspeed.net.

April 6-8, Friday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm, Wildflower Show at the Maturango Museum, 100 E. Las Flores, Ridgecrest, (760) 375-6900. Come see what wildflower treasures have been uncovered within a 50-mile radius of Ridgecrest. Volunteer teams with BLM permits will search for flora on the facing slopes & in the canyons of the Sierra Nevada, Coso, and El Paso Mountains, as well as the Indian Wells

Valley itself. Last year several teams gathered in spite of rain, cold wind & even snow showers. What will they find this year?

April 14-15 Saturday & Sunday.

Buttermilk Fence Project. Leader: Todd Vogel. Come join the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society and Friends of the Inyo for this project where will restore the fencing around the Department of Fish & Game's wildlife preserve parcel in the Buttermilks just north of Grouse Mountain. Help protect this beautiful mid-elevation meadow; jobs for all skill levels. Meet at 8am at the junction of Buttermilk Road and West Line Street (Highway 168). 2WD vehicles okay. For more information contact Todd Vogel at (760) 873-6500 or todd@friendsoftheinyo.org.

April 21 2007, Saturday, Walker Pass.

Leader: Naomi Fraga. Walker Pass is a mountain pass in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Field trip attendees will carpool from the meeting spot and park along Hwy 178 at a floriferous spot in the eastern portion of the pass. We will see a variety of desert annuals including and abundance of *Linanthus*, and *Eriophyllum* species. Other noteworthy plants along the way may include and desert pinchusions (*Chaenactis*), sun cups (*Camissonia*), and the ever elusive pygmy poppy (*Canbya candida*). Bring lunch, ample water, sunscreen and a camera (hiking will be minimal). We will meet at the Inyokern Post office 9:30 AM and should arrive back in the early afternoon. Carpooling from the post office is encouraged, and we will only be traveling on paved roads. For more information contact Naomi at (909) 625-8767 x231 or naomi.fraga@cgu.edu.

April 29, Sunday, Saline Valley. Leader: Michèle Slaton. We'll explore the northwest portion of Saline Valley, taking short walks from the car at a few stops. Depending on spring weather, we'll spend more time at the lower elevations near the

dunes, higher in the cactus country along Waucoba Wash, or among the carbonates of Whippoorwill Canyon. Meet at 9:00 am on the Saline Valley floor at the intersection of the Saline Valley Road and the warm springs road to the campground. From Big Pine, take the Death Valley/Big Pine Road to the Saline Valley Road, then drive approximately 30 miles on a dirt road to the meeting point. High clearance, 4WD recommended, but not required. Bring sunscreen, water, hat, lunch, and snacks. Dogs are restricted to within 100 ft. of roads in the Park, so are not recommended. For more information contact Michèle at (760) 786-3233 or michele_slaton@nps.gov.

FIELD TRIP POLICIES: For all field trips, be sure to bring plenty of water, lunch, good walking shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing for hot sun and/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 not pets. For general questions on field trips or if you would like to lead a trip, please call Jerry Zartoski at (760) 872-3818 or write jerryzat@verizonmail.com

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Sojourn in the White Mountains – August 11-12, 2007

The first SUMMER Sojourn is an event the Bristlecone Board is very excited about – a Sojourn in a different season, at new location, with all new field trips, and a focus on alpine plants. Like the spring Sojourns past, there will be lots of blooms, interesting conversations, spectacular vistas, an outstanding evening speaker, varied field trips and great food. We hope you will join us.

The Sojourn will begin at 11:30 on Saturday, August 11 at White Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek Facility, located in the ancient bristlecone pine forest. Afternoon field trips will be followed by a social hour, dinner and a program presented by Dr. Connie Millar. After a good night sleep either in the dorms or in your own tent if you prefer, you will have breakfast, pack a lunch and be off on a field trip that will last through mid-afternoon. The cost for the Sojourn including accommodations and three meals is \$100. To obtain a registration packet which includes a registration form, email Sherryl Taylor at staylor@npgcable.com. If you do not have email, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sherryl at P.O. Box 1638, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. As space is limited, please register soon.

GOLDEN TROUT NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Naturalist-led hikes exploring botany, geology and birds in the Eastern Sierra's Golden Trout Wilderness above Lone Pine. At 10,000 feet elevation, this walk-in camp (three mile hike) offers tented cabins and all meals as you dayhike in the Cottonwood Lakes Basin area. Three one week sessions :

June 24 - June 30

July 1 - July 7

July 8 - July 14

\$395 per week. Reserve early - we often fill up quickly. Call Paul at (805)668.8344, email paul.roark@verizon.net or visit the web site at www.1startists.com/gtc. Golden Trout Natural History Workshop is a 501c3 non-profit.



CONSERVATION

Confusion Reigns

In the last two newsletters I've criticized Inyo County Water Department Director Tom Brook's proposed 3-year Interim Management Plan (IMP) for groundwater pumping. Brooks describes his plan as "maintain or gain" (meaning water tables would either stay at current levels or rise), yet the chances of water table decline are almost as great as the chances of "maintaining or gaining." His characterization as "maintain or gain" is thus incorrect, if not dishonest. Using this characterization, however, Director Brooks has gained the enthusiastic support of Inyo County Supervisors for his plan.

At the November meeting of the Standing Committee Inyo representatives went to LA ready to insist upon Brooks' plan. LA Standing Committee representatives, however, weren't prepared to discuss either Brooks' plan or DWP's proposed plan.

Nothing happened in December and January, then, a week before the Standing Committee meeting of February 12, 2007, Brooks unveiled to Inyo Supervisors a new IMP proposed by DWP. This IMP, like Brooks' proposed IMP, had a goal of "maintaining or gaining" water tables. Unlike Brook's IMP, however, DWP's proposal would adjust pumping based on actual conditions to realize its goal.

Brooks' proposed IMP is analogous to mass-produced suits in three sizes: small, medium, and large. Only if you have exactly the right body size will the suit fit. DWP's proposal is analogous to a tailored suit. Whatever your body size, the tailor takes your measurements and makes a suit that fits. DWP's proposal is an example of water table-based management, something Inyo has advocated for years and DWP has hitherto adamantly resisted. In short, DWP's proposal appears to be a major step forward and would be much more likely to

“maintain or gain” than would Brooks’ proposal.

Or would it?

While the goal and the methods are relatively clear, the DWP plan’s imprecise language regarding pumping from exempt wells may be a loophole allowing excessive pumping. Until this is clarified, it’s unknown whether this is the groundbreaking plan it seems to be, or a trick allowing massive pumping from exempt wells.

Given widely publicized commitments by both Mayor Villaraigosa and members of the LA Board of Water and Power to honor environmental obligations, I doubt this LA Board would attempt such a trick. Given that some DWP managers responsible for past over-pumping remain on the job, however, the exempt well language could be a DWP management attempt to undermine the LA Board’s groundbreaking plan. I suspect the language for water table-based ~~management~~ reflects the intent of the LA Board. Does the exempt well language simply reflect DWP management’s incompetence, or, in apparently undermining the LA Board’s intent, is it an example of DWP management’s bad faith?

This question – is it DWP incompetence or DWP bad faith? – arises repeatedly for Inyo County, so it’s fitting that the LA Board confronts it as well. Perhaps it will finally induce the LA Board to change DWP management personnel.

Another recurring question is Inyo’s obsession with secrecy. Although IMPs were on the agenda at the February 12, 2007 Standing Committee meeting, Inyo, inexplicably, made no attempt to get clarification of DWP’s proposal. Nor have the IMPs been discussed at the Technical Group. Any discussions of DWP’s IMP which may be occurring are not open to public scrutiny. This means Inyo Supervisors will, once again, make decisions

with little opportunity for meaningful public discussion, and undoubtedly rely on advice of ICWD Director Tom Brooks and legal counsel Greg James. This doesn’t inspire confidence.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair

New Members

The Bristlecone Chapter warmly welcomes the following new members:

Kathy Martin
Ridgecrest

Patricia Sorensen
Ridgecrest

Eileen Burger
Mammoth Lakes



Ivesia gordonii

Next Newsletter Deadline: April 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Student, Limited Income	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family, Group, or Library	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily	\$1,500.00

President – Sherryl Taylor (760) 924-8742
Vice President - Cheryl Chipman (760) 872-7636
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 – Cheryl Chipman (760)
Field Trips – Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
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 - 2007 Chair. – Anne Halford (760) 873-6714 hm., (760) 872-5022 wk.
Book Sales - Sue Weis (760) 873-3485
Posters – Stephen Ingram (760) 387-2913

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) 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

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