

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA
NATIVE FLORA

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

Volume 28 No. 5
September/October 2007

Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the "Green Church" which is at the corner of Benton Crossing Rd. and Hwy #395 near Mammoth. Our speaker will be Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Lands Director for the Eastern Sierra Land Trust who will present a talk titled; "Conserving Special Resources in the Eastern Sierra: Benton Hot Springs Valley."

This presentation will cover how a conservation easement can protect rare plants and migratory water fowl while maintaining agricultural viability on a historic meadow in Mono County.

Next Board Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Board meeting will meet on Wednesday September 19th at 7:00 PM at the USFS/BLM Conference Room, 351 Pacu Lane in Bishop. Everyone is welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first Summer Sojourn was a huge success! The weather was as perfect as it ever gets in the White Mountains. We had 35 enthusiastic and interested guests who seemed very happy to be at Crooked Creek. The accommodations and meals worked out well. The field trips were excellent and the program superb. Our guests seemed to enjoy themselves even as they washed some dishes and helped with cleanup chores. We were very happy to have among our guests CNPS Executive Director Amanda Jorgenson and her 10 year old daughter Sophia.

Thanks go to Denise Waterbury for inviting us to WMRS Crooked Creek Facility for our Sojourn and for preparing the registration forms and handling logistics. Cheryl Chipman did a great job with registration, giving last minute driving instructions, and filling us with good food during happy hour. Field trip leaders Sue Weis, Daniel Pritchett, Mark Bagley, Denise Waterbury and Jerry Zatorski led field trips that pleased everyone, even in a minimal flower year. Jerry's maps and descriptions helped folks make the hard choice of which trips to go on. Connie Millar made a fast trip from the Bay Area and back to present an excellent program on climate change based on her limber pine research. And Daniel Pritchett gave support to Connie's talk with a comparison of aerial photographs from the 40's and 50's with recent ones showing increased forest infill. The entire Board participated in planning and putting on the Sojourn. Thanks to all.

Our guests are asking for another Sojourn at Crooked Creek in 2009. I hope you will plan to join us.

.....Sherryl Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

2007 Bristlecone Chapter Native Plant Sale

The 12th Annual Native Plant sale will be on Saturday, September 22nd at 9:00 at the White Mtn. Research Station

The Annual Native Plant Sale will host approximately 40 different native species available in various numbers and container sizes. All the perennial favorites will be there; Penstemons, purple sage, apricot globe mallow and evening primrose... Please join us and help spread the news about the value and beauty native plants have in your garden setting! Questions? Please contact the Owens Valley Native Plant Propagation Team – Anne, Diana, Denise, Kathleen or Sue at 872-5022.

Special thanks to our mentor and friend Karen Ferrell-Ingram who inspired us to keep this tradition alive and who spoke kindly to and help watered our nascent native gems.

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 7, 2007.**

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

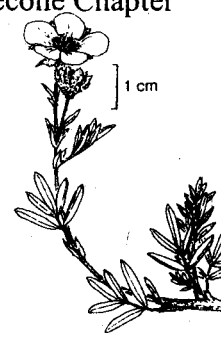
Non-eligible costs include wages, typing, and costs unrelated to the project.

Applicants will be notified by **January 26, 2008**. 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



Field Trip Reports

Alabama Hills Field Trip

Bristlecone & Creosote sub-chapter members along with others from elsewhere met on the north end of Lone Pine where our morning trip leader, Mark Bagley, oriented the group to our itinerary and location and went through the customary introductions and carpool arrangements. After which our caravan made its way up to Movie Flat Rd where the group had an introduction to more than a dozen desert shrub species that to spite the dry conditions were still identifiable in their dormant state. Even in this dry year we did have Desert Alysum, *Lepidium fremontii*, and Mojave Aster, *Xylorhiza tortifolia*, putting on a some flowers; along with Nevada Ephedra, *Ephedra nevadense*, with pollen cones. We then made our way to a spring area southwest of town where the adjacent meadow showed a strong contrast to the dry scrub up on the hillsides. In the ground water dependent meadow area the lush assortment of grasses and forbs showed little, if any, effect from the little rain in the past year as their water comes not from the annual rains but the complex system of underground aquifers that come to the surface in these areas. The group was treated to Owens Valley Checker Mallow, *Sidacea covillei*, and Inyo Mariposa Lily, *Calochortus excavatus*, in bloom, both listed rare plant species. By midday we made our way to the home of one of the Chapter's founding members Betty Gilcrest's, and while lunch was being set up we took a quick tour of her property in the Alabama Hills. Her property is a dryer alkali meadow were Alkali Sacaton, *Sporobolus airoides*, and Salt Grass, *Distichlis spicata*, intermingle with Greasewood, *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, Rubber Rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, and Parry's Saltbush, *Atriplex parryi*. After our pot luck lunch, the group headed north to the Manzanar National Historical Monument just south of Independence. There we were met by Richard Potashin, who works as an interpretive guide and historian for the monument. Richard took us through the area that was the World War II era internment camp for Americans of Japanese decent. During the interment period the inhabitants produced lush ornamental gardens, orchards and

victory gardens and many of which were either filled in with debris from the abandon camp or covered with the desert sands as the area was quickly forgotten by most Americans. We visited a few of the garden and orchard areas normally not on the regular tour and learned about some of the restoration efforts ongoing at Manzanar NHM. We finished by 4:30 in the afternoon knowing that Richard only scratched the surface on what is and has gone on there at the monument.

.....Jerry Zatorski

Some Like It Hot - July 21, 2007

The trail from Convict Lake to the broken bridge at the confluence of Genevieve and Convict Creeks has a variety of habitats including riparian, with some huge stands of Black Cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*); Pinon Pine (*Pinus monophylla*) forest, providing welcome shade above the lake; a White Fir (*Abies concolor*) and Red Fir (*Abies magnifica*) association as the trail bends upward and south; and subalpine slopes.

It is a rough, rocky trail composed of avalanche slopes of ancient metamorphics and gray Mount Baldwin marble. A testament to instability, the trail was closed for two years during the earthquakes of the early 1980's.

However, neither terrain, steepness, nor heat daunted the 21 people who turned out for the hike. They botanized the entire way, finding such treasures as a disjunct population of Bearberry/Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*); one of the northernmost Sierran samples of Cliff Bush (*Jamesia americana* var. *rosea*); different forms of *Eriogonum microthecum*; and a fine stand of blooming Broad-leaved Willow-herb (*Epilobium latifolium*), uncommon here with a type locality in Siberia.

Few plants were blooming in this dry year, but there were big swathes of Sierra Soda Straw (*Angelica lineariloba*) and patches of Bridges' Penstemon (*P. rostriflorus*) and Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*).

The group ate lunch under the hot sun balanced on red rocks beneath high cliffs with Violet-green Swallows soaring above where the two roaring creeks had tossed a concrete bridge to oblivion in 1982. Most people chose to soak their feet in the icy stream, and all looked up Convict Creek at the trail to Lake Mildred or across at the sharp peak behind which lies Bright Dot Lake, opportunities for another day: "Something lost behind the ranges over yonder go you there."

.....Cathy Rose

Creosote Ring Fall 2007 Program

One of the goals of the subchapter has been to offer programs that are of interest to the general public. Last fall we co-sponsored with Kerncrest Audubon a program by Steve Hartman. What we are trying this year is to offer one program in October 2007 (details below) & one in February 2008. These are months that Audubon does not have programs in the Indian Wells Valley.

Oct. 5, Wed., 7 pm @ the Maturango Museum (100 W. Las Flores, Ridgecrest).

Two Kinds of Green will feature an introduction to the mission and work of CNPS, as well as the history & work of the local CNPS subchapter, The Creosote Ring. Subchapter coordinator, Kathy LaShure will explain the importance of Creosote, our namesake plant, to our desert community. There will an informational display and free literature. The second half of the evening will present a bit more green than our desert has displayed in this year of very little rain. Shelley Ellis, Ridgecrest BLM biologist and Creosote Ring member, will take us on a photographic tour of the National Parks of the Green Isle (Ireland). If you saw her presentation at last May's Maturango Museum Wildflower Show, you know that her photos are just lovely, inspiring lots of oo's and ah's.

Please join us. For more information please contact Kathy LaShure, 760-377-4541.

CONSERVATION

One step forward, two steps backward

I'm happy to announce the completion of a brochure summarizing some of the principal issues in Owens Valley groundwater management. I wrote the text and Ceal Klingler edited it, laid it out, and got it printed. The Owens Valley Committee (OVC) paid the printing costs, and has the brochure available for downloading at www.ovcweb.org/docs/GWbrochure10.pdf. This will help our efforts to educate people about DWP's excessive pumping and the OVC deserves credit for making the brochure happen.

Unfortunately, the OVC also deserves censure, as do other parties to the 1997 MOU to the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) and EIR. At the July 12, 2007, Standing Committee meeting, the OVC president announced MOU party representatives had reached agreement regarding a proposed mitigation project near Hines Spring. The project, an artificial pond, would be supplied by pumping water from well 355.

The problem is that well 355 is in an area where vegetation and groundwater have yet to fully recover from drawdowns of the late 1980's and where a permanent monitoring site has been in "OFF" status since 1998. This means well 355 is in an area where pumping would not normally be allowed. Because the proposed pumping is for mitigation, rather than export to LA, however, MOU parties expect the Technical Group to grant an exemption from LTWA rules that would otherwise prohibit the pumping.

In basing a mitigation project on pumping that will require exemption from normal management practices, the MOU parties' proposal perpetuates the notion that pumping from exempt wells, miraculously, has no negative effects. To the contrary, pumping from exempt wells is already the single biggest problem in Owens Valley groundwater management. I've written repeatedly about meadow destruction caused by exempt well pumping for Blackrock fish hatchery (and sent a formal complaint to the Technical Group, which

has, so far, ignored it). Exempt well pumping alone will cause drawdowns this year in many wellfields. Output from exempt and unlinked wells currently accounts for about 78% of DWP's average annual pumping – is 100% our goal?!

There's a simple alternative: using readily available surface water for the artificial pond. Why this alternative was rejected hasn't been publicly disclosed. One thing is certain: the loser, as usual, is endangered meadow habitat, and the winner is DWP. Had MOU parties decided to use surface water, DWP's exports might have been slightly reduced. Instead, by allowing DWP to pump water not otherwise available to pump, DWP will meet its legal mitigation requirement without its exports being affected.

The MOU parties' decision was reached in a lengthy, closed negotiation process. I've objected repeatedly over the years to secrecy in water policy decision-making! Without the pressure of public scrutiny native plants and animals consistently get short-changed. The MOU parties – including the OVC and the Range of Light Group of the Sierra Club – followed the customary practice of secret negotiations with DWP and achieved the customary dismal results.

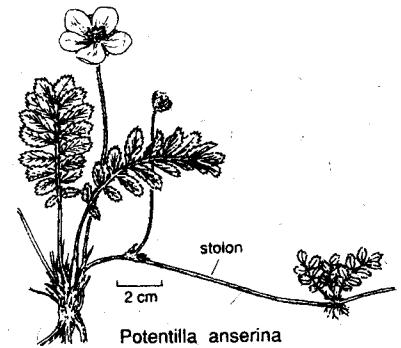
Correction

In my last newsletter article (“A 20th anniversary and a challenge”) I gave directions for viewing alkali meadow habitat at permanent monitoring sites. To my embarrassment, some of the mileages were incorrect. The road to Blackrock Fish Hatchery is closer to 8 miles north of Independence than the 12 stated in the article, and permanent monitoring site TS3 is 1.4 miles south down Coliseum Road from TS2 rather than the 1.1 miles stated in the article. My apologies for any confusion this may have caused. For those who are interested, I will be leading a field trip to this area on October 6, 2007.

A Word of Thanks

Thank You to Betty Gilchrist for hosting our May 20th potluck lunch at her lovely home in the Alabama Hills. It was a treat to see Betty and to enjoy the vistas and the shade in her back yard, along with conversation and good food.

And, thank you to Carrie and Dan Meyers, owners of InTouch MicroSpa in Mammoth. Carrie and Dan along with their therapists contribute their earnings on Earth Day to benefit local environmental organizations, including our chapter. When you are making massage appointments, remember In Touch MicroSpa.



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

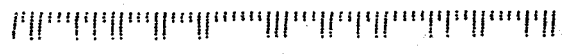
Membership Category

- 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 - 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
 Legislation – Kathy Duvall- (760) 387-2122
 Education - Edyth Irvine (760) 924-5778
 Programs – Cheryl Chipman (760) 760-872-7636
 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 Wicks (760) 873-3485
 Posters – Stephen Ingram (760) 387-2913
 Kathy LaShure, Creosote Ring Sub-chapter Coordinator,
 (760) 377-4541

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 to Newsletter Editor Anne Halford at kasch@cebridge.net

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