

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

**The California Native Plant Society**



**Bristlecone Chapter**

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**Volume 28 No. 6**  
**November/December 2007**

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Next Chapter Meeting

On Nov. 28. The CA Native Plant Society will host its annual potluck at White Mountain Research Station. Michele Slaton, Death Valley National Park Botanist will give a presentation on the "Highlights of Death Valley Botany", including rare plant management and a recently expanded weed control program. She will present current maps of rare plant populations at the Eureka Dunes with the now 30-year-old record originated by botanists Mary Ann Henry and Mary Dedecker. The potluck set-up will begin at 6:00 with dinner at 6:30 pm. Please bring your own table setting and a dish to share. All are welcome.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Sometimes when a member of an organization has led a project for a long time and retires, the project folds. This was not the case with the Bristlecone Chapter's native plant sale. In September our chapter held its annual plant sale in Bishop and in Mammoth and made close to \$3,000. When Karen Ferrell-Ingram left the plant sale after 10 very successful years, she made sure that it would continue by teaching a class of 25 native plant growers the tricks of her trade. She gave us seeds and equipment to get started and the protocol for growing over 100 local natives. And she was there to answer our many questions. Anne Halford who had been Karen's partner in growing natives for all the years and Diana Pietrasanta took on the job. In Mammoth, a few members under the leadership of Sherry Taylor tried growing natives that thrive at higher altitudes and held a small but successful plant sale for the chapter as well. For the hard work of Anne, Diana, Sherry and the many others who pitched in we say thank you. The Bristlecone Chapter Native Plant Sale will continue to provide residents with a source of natives and fund our Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant program.

The November meeting is our traditional potluck and program. It is also when we elect officers for the next year. Come and enjoy!

.....Sherryl Taylor

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Creosote Ring December Program

“Conservation of the Kelso Creek

Monkeyflower” by Naomi Fraga

Wed. Dec. 5 @ 7 pm

Maturango Museum – 100 E. Las Flores,  
Ridgecrest

Naomi Fraga is no stranger either to the members of the Creosote Ring subchapter or its territory. Her Master’s degree field work focused on the flora of the eastern watershed of Owen Peak. She has led several CNPS field trips our area. And she was the featured speaker at the 2006 Wildflower Show at the Maturango Museum. Now her PhD field work is bringing her our way again.

*Mimulus shevockii* (Kelso Creek monkeyflower) is an annual herb endemic to desert habitats in the Kern River drainage of the southern Sierra Nevada, Kern County, California. This species has several documented threats throughout its range and is listed as “fairly endangered” by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS List 1B.2) and is of special management consideration to the Bureau of Land Management. A population genetic and ecological study is proposed to investigate how current threats are impacting this rare species. Naomi will discuss the current status of *M. shevockii* and ongoing conservation efforts for this species. And she has asked for the Creosote Ring’s help with her field work in the spring of 2008 (more eyes are likely to spot more plants). If you’d like to see this charming wildflower, you can find Naomi’s photos at <http://tinyurl.com/2zfasw> - she has other great photos on her Flickr site.

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Daniel Pritchett’s field trip on October 6, 2007, took us to the vicinity of Independence where we saw the interaction between wildfire and groundwater pumping. We visited three permanent plots established about two decades ago in historic meadows that had undergone shrub invasion. Three months before our visit, the Inyo Complex Fire had burned across these three plots, killing all shrubs in the path of the fire. At the time of the field trip, little recovery had occurred on the two plots where groundwater pumping has been high in recent decades. Despite the removal of shrubs, which compete with perennial grasses for soil moisture, alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*) had not responded to the stimulus of fire. Most grass clumps were dead, and the few that survived had managed to produce only two or three leaves apiece. On the plot where groundwater withdrawal was moderate, shrub mortality was also high, but alkali sacaton had sprouted vigorously, turning sagebrush scrub back into a verdant meadow.

.....Jan Bowers and Steve McLaughlin

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## CONSERVATION

### Exercises in futility

In the Response to Comments, Volume I, to the EIR to the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) pg. 2-29 it is stated:

“However should it be believed that a significant effect on the environment (as defined under CEQA) has or will occur due to the project, any person may bring the matter to the attention of Los Angeles or Inyo County and/or employ any other available legal right or remedy, including CEQA.”

I first invoked this passage at a Technical group meeting in early 2006 and called attention to the meadow degradation in parcel BLK094 due to excessive pumping for the Blackrock Hatchery. I have written about this degradation in this newsletter for years and the data documenting the degradation are overwhelming. How did the Technical Group address my complaint? I was ignored.

I again invoked this passage and called attention to the Blackrock meadow degradation over a year later at the Technical Group meeting May 4, 2007. This time I was told by DWP's Gene Coufal to write a letter.

On behalf of the Bristlecone Chapter I wrote a letter explaining the problem, citing the relevant data, and proposing a solution. I delivered the letter to the Standing Committee at its meeting in Bishop on July 9, 2007. This letter is available for downloading at [www.ovcweb.org](http://www.ovcweb.org). With a cover letter written to the Technical Group I delivered the letter to DWP and the Inyo County Water Department offices in Bishop July 13, 2007.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will occur November 19. Will the Standing Committee discuss this problem as I requested at the July meeting?

The next meeting of Technical Group remains unscheduled. It cancelled its meeting for July 23, 2007 and, therefore, has not met since last June, before I had written up the complaint. Will the Technical Group discuss this problem as I requested at the May meeting?

Former Bishop Mayor Betty Denton told the Inyo Supervisors in 2005 that the only thing DWP understands is litigation.

It appears this statement may apply to Inyo County as well as DWP.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair

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**The Bristlecone Chapter Warmly  
Welcomes our Newest Members**

Laurie Morrow  
Big Pine, CA

Sidney Quinn  
Big Pine, CA

Peter Cummings  
Bishop, CA

Harold McDonald  
Bishop, CA

James Tyler  
Bishop, CA

Pam Vaughan  
Bishop, CA

Delinda Briggs  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Laura Mogg  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

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**Death Valley Photos Needed**

Death Valley has initiated a photo-monitoring effort for botanical resources in the Park, including, but not limited to Eureka Dunes and Valley. If you have good quality photographs that may be recaptured of plants or landscapes in the Park and are willing to share them, please come to the presentation, or contact Michele at [michele\\_slaton@nps.gov](mailto:michele_slaton@nps.gov), or (760) 786-3233.

**Next Newsletter Deadline: December 28<sup>th</sup>**

## 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

Please make membership checks payable to and send to:

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

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 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 Weis (760) 873-3485 Posters - Stephen Ingram (760) 387-2913 Kathy LaShure, Creosote Ring Sub-chapter Coordinator, (760) 377-4541
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**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: [kasch@cebridge.net](mailto:kasch@cebridge.net)

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