

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

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

**Volume 29 No. 1
January/February 2008**

Next Chapter Meeting

Annual Member Slide Show. January 30th 7pm-
White Mountain Research Station. Bring slides or
digital images on a CD of plants and/or adventures
from 2007. Please limit to 25 images per person. A
field trip planning meeting will take place at 5:30 at
WMRS. All are welcome to attend.

Our next Chapter Board Meeting will be on January 23rd at 7:00 at the USFS/BLM office (351 Pacu Lane). All are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as president of the Bristlecone Chapter. Since I'm still somewhat new to area, let me take a few sentences to introduce myself. My wife, Jan Bowers, and I moved to the Owens Valley from Tucson just about a year ago. We both worked professionally as botanists; I was with the University of Arizona and Jan was with the U.S. Geological Survey. We have been members of CNPS and the Bristlecone Chapter since 1999.

Please join me in thanking Sherryl Taylor for her three productive years as our chapter president. My thanks also to Denise Waterbury, Jerry Zatorski, and Anne Fulton, who are stepping down as Secretary, field trips chair, and publicity chair, respectively. Special thanks to the officers and chairs who will continue to serve throughout 2008.

Jan and I dreamed of moving to the Eastern Sierra Nevada for almost 25 years. During my academic career I was fortunate to be able to travel and work many places on this earth, but I have never been anywhere as breathtaking and fascinating as the Eastern Sierra. There are many ways to enjoy and learn more about this great area in which we are privileged to live, and one important way is to take advantage of opportunities provided by the Bristlecone Chapter. I urge you all to come to our Wednesday evening programs and participate in our field trips. Enjoy exceptional places, beautiful plants, and interesting people.

.....Steve McLaughlin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Creosote Ring Chapter Presentation

"Tejon-Tehachapi Park: A Vision for California's Newest Park"

Presented by Ileene Anderson, Staff Biologist, Center for Biological Diversity
Wed. Jan. 30, 2008 @ 7 pm
Maturango Museum – 100 E. Las Flores, Ridgecrest

Sixty miles north of Los Angeles lies a quintessential piece of classic California landscape – Tejon Ranch. These 270,000 acres are located at the convergence of four ecoregions, which results in unsurpassed diversity of plants and animals. Currently at a crossroads, the fate of the ranch will be decided in the next few years – a series of suburban sprawl new cities, or a new public park that can be enjoyed by all. As portions of the Tejon Ranch lie within Kern County, this program has a special significance for those of us who are County residents. Please join us for an overview of the numerous rare species that currently live on Tejon and things you can do to support a new park!

Native Plant Propagation Class

A new course at Cerro Coso College in Bishop will be taught by Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wenk this March. The class is one unit credit/no credit and will meet on Friday afternoons from 1-7 p.m. starting March 14. Please contact Elizabeth about course specifics at ehwenk@gmail.com.

2008 Bristlecone Meeting Calendar

Board Meetings are at the USFS/BLM Conference Room, Bishop, and General Meetings are at White Mountain Research Station unless otherwise announced.

January Board Meeting – Jan. 23
General Meeting – Jan. 30

March Board Meeting – March 19
General Meeting – March 26

May Board Meeting – May 21
General Meeting – May 28

July Banquet – To Be Announced

Sept. Board Meeting – Sept. 17
General Meeting - Sept. 24 (at the Green Church)

Nov. Board Meeting – Tues., Nov. 11

Cookies for the Meetings – Can You Help?

Would you like to bring cookies and drinks to a program meeting in 2008? For many years the Board has been providing refreshments. It would be nice to relieve them of this task. Check the calendar listed in this newsletter and choose a month you would like to bring cookies and or juice to a meeting. Contact Sherryl Taylor at staylor@npgcable.com or (760) 924-8742 and let me know what month you could help. I'll check back with you two weeks before the program to make sure it still works for you. Thanks.

CONSERVATION

New Water Department Director

On Nov 27, 2007 the Inyo County Board of Supervisors issued a press release stating that it had "decided to change the administrative direction of the Inyo County Water Department" and that "former Water Department Director Tom Brooks will be leaving employment with Inyo County to return to private industry." The wording of the announcement raised an obvious question: how can a "former Water Department Director" leave Inyo County employment?! Whatever actually happened, the result was that Brooks left/was terminated with no notice.

Two weeks later, the Board of Supervisors hired Dr. Robert Harrington to be Acting Water Department Director. Bob was already on the Water Department staff as a hydrologist. He is widely known in the Owens Valley and I'm sure all of our members wish him well.

Bob undoubtedly realizes he's taking on a very difficult job. The fear-based approach to dealing with DWP is deeply ingrained in Inyo County leaders as well as in the Water Department itself. Inyo County desperately needs to attempt to enforce the Water Agreement instead of continually finding excuses to acquiesce to DWP's excessive pumping. Dr. Harrington will have to show leadership skills lacking in his predecessors if this is to happen.

A place to start is at Blackrock meadows (parcel BLK094). Last July, on behalf of the Bristlecone Chapter I wrote a formal request to the Technical Group that management practices be changed in that area (I've written about this in recent newsletter articles). There is overwhelming evidence that current levels of pumping are inconsistent with the Water Agreement's goal to "avoid" creating new pumping impacts in this parcel, yet the Technical Group has never discussed the problem. Harrington's predecessor, Tom Brooks, never even acknowledged to me that he had received my request. How this request is handled will give a good idea if things will change, or if the Water Department will stick to business as usual. Good luck, Bob!

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair

FIELD TRIP REPORT

One beautiful fall Sunday, October 4, seven of us met for the Highway clean-up. CNPS' section is halfway up Sherwin Grade and we broke into two teams, each taking one side of the divided highway.

There was interesting trash, but the best curiosity botanically was the discarded and distinctive long cone of a Sugar Pine tree, many miles from its habitat at mid elevations of the West slope. What kind of story could it tell?

We were very visible in our orange safety vests, so drivers who honked either supported CNPS, or thought we were good looking convicts. After three hours, we finished and we would have even finished sooner with more participants (hint, hint).

Our president, Sherryl, then handed out homemade cookies, and our new president elect, Steve McLaughlin was happy to have learned all about the plants and trash of Sherwin Grade. Join us next spring.

.....Sally Gaines

Next Newsletter Deadline: February 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

Please make membership checks payable to and send to:

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

President - Steve McLaughlin (760) 938-3140
Vice President - Cheryl Chipman (760) 872-7636
Secretary - Lizzy Wenk - (760) 873-6263
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 - Sue Weis (760) 873-3485
Decker Native Plant Garden - Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
Publicity - Sally Gaines (760) 935-4088
Historian - Ann Fulton (760) 873-9261
Librarian - EvelynMae Nikolaus - (760) 878-2149
Rare Plant Committee - 2008 Chair. - Kathleen Nelson (760) 873-1095
Plant Sale Committee - Anne Halford, Diana Pietrasanta, Sherryl Taylor (924-8742), Denise Waterbury (873-4344)
Book Sales - Sue Weis (760) 873-3485
Posters - Stephen Ingram (760) 387-2913
Kathy LaShure, Creosote Ring Sub-chapter Coordinator, (760) 377-4541

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: kasch@cebridge.net

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