

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

## The California Native Plant Society



### Bristlecone Chapter

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**Volume 29 No. 3  
May/June 2008**

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#### Next Chapter Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the White Mtn. Research Station. Our speaker will be Tim Thomas who is President of the Mojave Desert Chapter. Tim's talk is titled: "Plants of the Cottonwood Basin, Southern High Sierra."

Our next Chapter Board Meeting will be on May 21 at 7:00 at the USFS/BLM office (351 Pacu Lane). All are welcome to attend.

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

I've lived 35 years in various deserts and have yet to experience a year of "normal" rainfall, one in which the seasonal total and distribution resemble the long-term averages. This year's pattern, with good January and February rain and snow followed by March and April drought, has produced interesting results. The winter rains gave us abundant germination of spring annuals, but the recent dry conditions have limited their growth. For instance, on the Creosote-ring Subchapter's El Paso Mountains trip we saw hundreds of the bizarre desert candles (*Caulanthus inflatus*) but they were mostly just 6 to 8 inches tall. There are lots of species in flower out there, I see new (to me) kinds of plants every time I get out, but you have to look carefully to find some of them. As I write this many of the shrubs are just beginning to flower in the valley bottoms and lower mountain slopes—I think it will be a good year for these perennials.

We've gone on most of the Chapter field trips to date, and so far they've been great, and very well-attended. There are many more good trips scheduled this spring and summer; come out and join us to discover and enjoy the many botanical treasures of the Sierra Nevada.

I want to thank all of those who helped with our booth at "Celebrate Community Connections" (alias Earth Day) at Bishop City Park on April 20: Jan Bowers, Rosanne Higley, Tom Higley, Stephen Ingram, Sally Manning, Diana Pietrasanta, Daniel Pritchett, Sidney Quinn, and Dennis Schumacher. My apologies if I've left anyone out. I hope this will become an annual event. Be sure to mark your calendars for our banquet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Crowley Lake Community Center. Stephen Ingram will be our featured speaker. I had a sneak preview of his new book on succulents of California and Nevada at the Earth Day event—it's terrific.

.....Steve McLaughlin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date – July 30th!

The biannual CNPS Summer Banquet will be held at the Crowley Lake Community Center at 6 pm. Our speaker will be Stephen Ingram who will showcase his new book titled: "Cacti: Agaves and Yuccas of California and Nevada" and share information about interesting species in our region. Please contact Cheryl Chipman for reservation information – (760) 872-7636.

### 2008 May and June Bristlecone Chapter Field Trips

**May 16. Friday Field Trip to Long Valley.** Leader: Anne Halford. Meet at 9:30 at the "Green Church" – Benton Crossing Road – just off of Hwy. 395. The Long Valley Caldera with its' array of unique plant communities such as alkali meadows, Great Basin thermal spring systems and diverse sagebrush steppe communities is a plant lover's dream. We will find all kinds of rare species too including the Long Valley milk-vetch, Mono milk-vetch, alkali tansy, and meadow hawksbeard. Field trip will last until 12:30 – Bring a lunch and standard field trip items. Contact Anne Halford at 872-5022 or email at [ahalford@ca.blm.gov](mailto:ahalford@ca.blm.gov) for more information. All trips are easy to moderate and are a combination of driving and walking, usually not more than a mile or so.

**May 31, Saturday. Birch Lake Trail.** Leaders: Steve McLaughlin, Jan Bowers, and Laura Chamberlin. [Joint trip with Friends of the Inyo] The Birch Lake Trail begins at the north end of McMurray Meadows, southwest of Big Pine. The trail starts at the wetlands of McMurray meadows, goes through areas burned several years ago, and climbs up towards Birch Lake. Several interesting species can be found near the trail head at 6500 feet elevation, including bastard toad-flax (*Comandra umbellata*), and an unusual perennial species of *Lotus* (*L. crassifolius*) only recently found in the Eastern Sierra. Even during last year's dry spring, abundant wildflowers were found above 7500 feet elevation. Meet at the campground at

the junction of 395 and the Westgard Pass road at 7:30 AM. High clearance vehicles are desirable. Bring water, lunch, good footwear, and sunscreen. We should return to Big Pine by late afternoon. For further information contact Steve at 760-938-3140.

**June 1, 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.

**June 7, Saturday. Black Rock Meadow.** Leader: Daniel Pritchett. We will explore an area from Blackrock Springs south toward Independence.. Meet at Blackrock Fish Hatchery raceway parking lot at 8:45 am. Contact Daniel at 873-8943 for more information.

**June 14 & 15, Panamint Mountains.** Leader Jerry Zatorski. This will be a weekend trip where we'll visit several areas in the Panamint Mountains. On Saturday we'll explore the Wildrose Canyon area and take the hike up to Wildrose Peak, 8 miles round trip. Some highlights here will be Penstemons, Magnificent Lupine, Buckwheats, Panamint Mariposa, and Opuntias. Camping Saturday night is available in Wildrose Canyon. On Sunday we'll make our way north on Emigrant Pass Rd. to Auguereberry Point. From there we'll take a two mile thrilling hike across to Tetracoccus Ridge where Holly Spurge, Napkinring Buckwheat, and an array of other species grows. The hiking portions of this trip are moderate to strenuous depending on participant's fitness. Participants should bring all the fluids and foods they'll need as there are no services or water available anywhere on our route. The two campsites in Wildrose Canyon are primitive with pit toilets and are on a first come first serve basis. On Saturday we'll meet at 8:00 AM at the Charcoal Kilns in Wildrose Canyon. The kilns are along Wildrose Canyon Rd. about 17 miles east of the Panamint Valley Rd/Trona Wildrose Rd. intersection in Panamint Valley. On Sunday we'll meet at the kilns at 8:00 AM.

For more information contact Jerry at 760-872-3818 or [jerryzat@verizonmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@verizonmail.com).

**June 21, Saturday. Benton Hot Springs Valley.** Leaders: Steve and Karen Ingram. Celebrate the summer solstice enjoying the wonders of a functioning alkali meadow. We hope to see the rare *Calochortus excavatus*, Inyo County star tulip, in bloom, along with other alkali meadow flowers. We'll also take a look at the birds and other wildlife in this normally off-limits meadow and wetlands area. A conservation easement was recently placed on the 900-acre ranch that permanently preserves the botanical, agricultural, and natural resources on the property. The trip is co-sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Land Trust and landowner, Bill Bramlette. More information will be available in the next newsletter but in the meantime, contact Katie Nelson at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust at (760) 873-4554, or [k.nelson@eslt.org](mailto:k.nelson@eslt.org).

**June 24-27, Tuesday thru Friday. Partners for Plants in Bodie Hills.** Rare *Botrychium* surveys in cooperation with the Toyaibe National Forest. Contact Anne Halford (760) 872-5022 for more information.

**June 28, Saturday. South Lake.** Leader: Lizzy Wenk. We will head up the Bishop Pass Trail, turning off to visit Bull Lake and the Chocolate Lakes – a roundtrip distance of 6 miles with 1500 feet of elevation gain and loss. Some of slopes around the Chocolate Lakes are calcitic making them especially interesting botanically. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:30 am at South Lake to begin hike and expect to be gone until around 3 p.m. Call Lizzy for details at 873-6263.

**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 no pets. For general questions on field trips please call Sue Weis at (760) 873-3485 or [sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com)

## CONSERVATION

### DWP recognizes Bristlecone Chapter!

Over the years I've written many articles about problems in Owens Valley groundwater management and DWP's excessive pumping. I know they have some effect on public opinion, but I've never gotten direct responses from DWP or Inyo.

Last July, on behalf of the Bristlecone Chapter, I submitted to the Technical Group a written request that it address management problems at parcel Blk094 (south and west of Blackrock Fish Hatchery). Even this direct request for action has so far generated only an indirect response. DWP wrote a draft response to my request, but sent it to Inyo County Water Department (ICWD). ICWD didn't even disclose the existence of DWP's draft response until DWP itself mentioned the letter at the Standing Committee meeting in January 2008.

Recently, however, the Bristlecone Chapter made a big breakthrough: DWP actually communicated with us directly! President Steve McLaughlin recently received a letter from none other than DWP's Gene Coufal. The letter stated that DWP has been informed of CNPS activities on DWP land without its knowledge and permission. The letter states that requests for permission must be sent at least 30 days before a scheduled activity.

CNPS has been conducting field trips on DWP land throughout the entire history of our chapter, and, as far as I know, this is the first time a permit has been required. What is the activity which triggered the permit request? A field trip I will lead on June 7 to look at the management problems around parcel BLK094!

I've already submitted my permit application. Now that Mr. Coufal has decided it is OK to communicate with us directly, perhaps DWP General Manager David Nahai will follow suit and finally answer my letter requesting a meeting!

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair  
**Next Newsletter Deadline: April 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 - 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
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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](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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