

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

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

**Volume 29 No. 4
July/August 2008**

Next Chapter Meeting

The biannual CNPS Summer Banquet will be held at the Crowley Lake Community Center on **Wednesday, July 30th 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 Sally Gaines (760) 935-4088 for reservation information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The hot topic now in the Eastern Sierra is the "Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Rural Heritage Act" (H.R. 6156/S. 3069), jointly sponsored by Rep. Buck McKeon and Sen. Barbara Boxer. This bill would designate over 470,000 acres as wilderness, while releasing nearly 90,000 acres from designation as Wilderness Study Areas. Among other things, the bill would add the wonderful Glass Creek Meadow to the Ansel Adams Wilderness and designate 26 miles of the Amargosa River as a Wild and Scenic River. This bill is far from perfect. The proposed White Mountains Wilderness in Mono County stops abruptly (and ridiculously) at the Inyo County line – following a contour would have made much more sense.

One major purpose of the California Native Plant Society is the conservation and preservation of our native flora. The White Mountains in particular possess many endemic plant taxa. Designating largely pristine areas as wilderness is one important means for protecting and conserving native plants; thus CNPS has a history of supporting the establishment of wilderness areas. I urge all Bristlecone Chapter members in Mono and Inyo counties to contact your county supervisors to express your support of this bill, despite its flaws.

I feel the need to emphasize that this bill does not "create" wilderness. It is hubris to believe we can create a wilderness. Wilderness is a gift, which we *choose* to preserve or destroy. Unfortunately, our history has largely been one of wilderness destruction. Even preserving wilderness is a daunting task, but formally designating special areas is an important first step.

.....Steve McLaughlin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date – Annual Native Plant Sale September 20th — White Mtn. Research Station

A wonderful array of native plants are growing and awaiting their garden homes. We've been busy coaxing from seed dozens of purple sage, various buckwheats, penstemons, Mojave aster, lupine and many more favorites.

And please don't forget to collect seed – July will be an optimal month. Please contact Anne Halford at 872-5022 if you'd like a list of some target species we'd like to have – remember to have a great sale we need that seed!

2008 Summer and early Fall Bristlecone Chapter Field Trips

July 18, Friday. Mosquito Flat to Long Lake. (RESERVATIONS NECESSARY.) Leader: Cathy Rose. Co-leaders: Sally Gaines, Sherryl Taylor and Steve Ingram. This is the first in a series of four Friday walks to study and enjoy the abundant and beautiful subalpine flora of the Rock Creek area. Since the trailhead at Mosquito Flat is at an elevation of 10,300', much of the work of reaching a high alpine wilderness area will already have been accomplished. On July 18 and August 1, the hike will be an easy stroll to Long Lake. On July 25 and August 8 the hike is a little harder as we follow a series of long, gradual switchbacks to Ruby Lake. For both, participants should be acclimated and wear shoes for rocky terrain. Bring lunch, water and, if you wish, a notebook, camera, and binoculars. A plant list will be provided. Please meet at 8:30 promptly at the old kiosk parking lot on the Rock Creek Road just west of Tom's Place. We will carpool to the trailhead where parking is tight. EACH GROUP IS LIMITED TO 8 PEOPLE. RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. Please call Sally Gaines at 760-935-4088 to reserve a space. No calls after 9:00 PM please.

July 19, Saturday. Glass Mountain Ridge. Leader: Michael Honer. This will be an all-day driving & short-hiking trip along an obscure series of Forest Service 4WD roads. We'll pass from low cobbly desert flats, across windswept exposed ridges, through pristine sagebrush steppe, and take a quick hike up an ancient cindercone covered in Linear-

leaved Paintbrush. This trip requires 4WD with low gear, high clearance, some experience. Lots of starts & stops. Bring along sturdy hiking boots, water, lunch, and prepare for wind & sun. Optional overnighter camping at a meadow nearby. I'll supply driving maps. For questions write Michael Honer: mihoner@earthlink.net

July 25, Friday. Mosquito Flat to Ruby Lake. Leader: Cathy Rose. Limited to 8 people. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY. See July 18 description.

July 26, Saturday. Horseshoe Meadow. Leaders: Pam MacKay, Tim Thomas.

August 1, Friday. Mosquito Flat to Long Lake. Leader: Cathy Rose. Limited to 8 people. See July 18 description.

August 8, Friday. July 25, Friday. Mosquito Flat to Ruby Lake. Leader: Cathy Rose and Steve Ingram. Limited to 8 people. See July 18 description.

Saturday, August 9, Dana Plateau. Leader Jerry Zatorski. This will be a backcountry hike from Tioga Lake to Dana Plateau. We'll hike an unmaintained trail that weaves its way up Glacier Canyon to the Dana Lake area and eventually the plateau, going through forest, meadow, talus and alpine habitats. With luck we'll find Net-leaved Willow, *Salix reticulata*, which is only found near Dana Lake in California. This is a strenuous hike at high elevation, and is only recommended for those in good hiking condition. This trip will take most of the day and participants should bring plenty of fluids and food, field guide, camera, and a hand lens. We will meet at the Tioga Lake parking lot along highway 120, just east of the park entrance at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Jerry at 760-872-3818 or jerryzat@verizonmail.com.

August 23, Saturday. Sharsmith Peak. Leaders: Cathy Rose, Sherryl Taylor. The name Sharsmith Peak has been proposed for a mountain above the Gaylor-Granite basin on the edge of Yosemite National Park presently known as "12,002." Please park just outside Tioga Pass, NOT in the Gaylor Lakes trailhead lot, and we'll walk in to the trailhead for the moderately-strenuous hike to the summit with spectacular Yosemite views. Cathy

Rose, a student of legendary Yosemite botanist Carl Sharsmith, will share memories of Carl as we enjoy the subalpine and alpine flowers and birds. Meet at Tom's Place at 8:00 for car-pooling, or be outside the pass by 9:00. Bring lunch and water, and expect a full day's hike. Please call Sherryl Taylor (760-924-8742) for more information.

October 26, Saturday. 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 873-8392.

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

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Bodie Hills – Partner's for Plants – June 24-27

Despite a smoky horizon and warm temperatures, nine intrepid, happy women embarked upon 4 days of rare plant surveys in the Bodie Hills. Species we were hunting for included *Botrychium* species – in particular *Botrychium lineare*, *Phacelia monoensis* and other rare species. We camped off of the Geiger Grade road in an idyllic spot ringed by aspen and rock outcrops. Surveys spanned the Masonic Mountain portion of the Bodie Hills and upper portions of the Rough Creek drainages.

On Tuesday we searched out a new population of *Phacelia monoensis* situated in the “classic” rhyolitic clay soils which were covered with mounds of *Perideridia bolanderi*. Wednesday the group joined Toyaibe National Forest botanists to assist in surveys as part of their Travel Management program. What a day they had – they discovered many species including the only third known California location of the rare William's combleaf (*Polycytenium williamsae*)! The site ended up being on BLM administered lands and Thursday was spent mapping this great find. Thanks to the eagle

eyes of the group, *Botrychium* was also located this day – keep tuned to find out if it's *Botrychium lineare*.

There were amazing blooms – fields of *Calochortus bruneauensis*, *Lupinus argenteus*, *Senecio intergerrimus*, *Crepis occidentalis*, *Castilleja* species and carpets of sweet-smelling *Phlox condensata*. Of course, evening stories around a campfire, wonderful food and smiles all around rounded-out the days as well. A great many thanks to Sherryl Taylor for organizing this tradition and being the Partner's for Plants Ambassador extraordinaire! Many thanks of course too to the other following wonderful ladies; Cindy Clamp, Nancy Callahan, Barbi Marcum, Sally Marston, Sheila Mount, Susan Osborne and Mary K Prentice.
.....Anne Halford

CONSERVATION

That which doesn't kill me makes me stronger!

In the last issue (April 2008) I wrote about a first for the Bristlecone Chapter: DWP acknowledging our existence by requiring a permit to conduct my field trip to the Blackrock Meadows area. This month I'm writing about a first for myself: getting booed while speaking for the Bristlecone Chapter at a public meeting!

The meeting in question was called by Inyo County Supervisors to solicit public comment on the McKeon-Boxer wilderness bill (just introduced in congress) and was held in Bishop June 25, 2008. There was an enormous crowd (estimated at 900 people) most of whom seemed to be loud-voiced, burly men, many of whom held yellow cardboard signs with anti-wilderness statements. Their boorish behavior was reported in the local media. What the boo-ers and hecklers didn't realize is that generating a response – even a negative one – was gratifying, at least to this speaker, because it meant people had actually listened to what I said. The comments I made for the chapter are given below – feel free to boo and hiss (or cheer)!

Dear Supervisors:

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society supports the Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act. The chief

effect of this bill will be to protect wildlands from new road construction, which would further fragment them. It provides the strongest protection possible for these lands without affecting existing legal access routes.

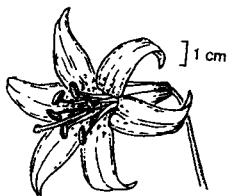
While we support the legislation, we are very disappointed that it sells Inyo County short. Wilderness does not end at the Inyo-Mono county line in the White Mountains and another wilderness bill is clearly needed. The Papoose Flat area in the northern Inyo Mountains is a particular concern of ours. This area is as spectacular as anything in the existing wilderness system and we ask that it be included in future wilderness legislation.

We are concerned that there appears to be a double standard in your Board's involvement in land management issues. Last year our Chapter wrote your Board, the Inyo LA Standing Committee, and the Inyo LA Technical Group and called attention to the effects of excessive groundwater pumping in the Blackrock area. Eleven months have passed and neither your Board, nor the Standing Committee, nor the Technical Group has taken any action to address this problem.

On the other hand, when the Congressmen McKeon and Boxer announced their wilderness legislation, within days you denounced it and organized public hearings. We request that you devote the same energy toward reducing the excessive pumping currently desertifying the Blackrock meadows area. This would benefit ranchers and ORV enthusiasts as well as environmentalists. Working to protect Owens Valley from excessive pumping brings your constituents together. Turning your Board into an anti-wilderness advocacy group simply increases polarization.

Thank you for considering these comments.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair



In Memory

We are sorry to share the news that Kathleen Hedtke, an employee and volunteer for the Inyo National Forest for the past nine years, recently passed away. Kathleen began working for the Forest in 1999 in Mammoth, under the Senior Community Service Employment program, then came to Bishop as a volunteer in 2003. Kathleen dedicated countless hours to the Forest in many ways, including assisting with a much needed update of the Forest herbarium. She always showed great enthusiasm for what many would have considered a tedious task, driven on by her unending desire to learn more about botany and the plants she was working with. Her positive attitude, hard work, and fun stories, will be missed by those who had the good fortune to know her. A \$50 donation has been made to the Bristlecone chapter of the California Native Plant Society in Kathleen's name.



Smilacina racemosa

Next Newsletter Deadline: August 28

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 – Sherryl Taylor (760) 924-8742
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 (924-8743), 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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