

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

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

**Volume 30 No. 1
January/February 2009**

Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be January 28, 2009, at White Mountain Research Station in Bishop. The topic will be Wildflower Adventures, Past and Future! Bring ideas for field trips in 2009 and be ready to sign up to lead one. Brainstorming and a pizza supper begin at 6 p.m. (a few dollars should help offset costs). At 7 p.m., we'll hold our annual members' slide show. This is your opportunity to share up to 15 film or electronic slides. Please contact Sally Manning, 873-3790, if you have questions. All are welcome to attend.

Next Board Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Board will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at the USFS/BLM office at 351 Pacu Lane. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An excellent conference on "Climate, Ecosystems, and Resources in Eastern California" was held in Bishop in early November, focusing on likely local ecological responses to expected global climate changes. The emerging picture seems grim. Increasing temperature and decreasing precipitation should result in reduced snowpacks and increased fire frequency and intensity. More rain-on-snow events could result in more severe floods.

Predicted climate changes are based on several elaborate computer models of the global climate system, and the various model projections are seldom in exact agreement. It is tempting to dismiss their conclusions because of the complexity, difficulty, and uncertainty in modeling the climate system. That "head-in-the-sand" approach has characterized our response to global change so far. Because the basic chemistry and physics of the atmosphere are well known, there is little disagreement in the scientific community about general responses to increased greenhouse gases.

All of the projected changes are likely to affect local plant communities, mostly in ways that we will perceive as negative. Floods could damage many mature riparian gallery forests. Increased fires might hasten the replacement of sagebrush by cheatgrass and other invasive exotics. Some alpine species may be "pushed off the top" of the mountains.

One study specifically predicted that alpine, foxtail pine, and sagebrush-bitterbrush communities will decrease in area.

A speaker from the US Forest Service pointed out that resisting such changes is likely to prove both expensive and futile; vegetation management should instead be focused on adaptation and mitigation. What exactly management agencies should do is not yet clear, but I was encouraged by the ongoing efforts of these agencies to develop and evaluate novel goals, strategies and solutions.

When thinking about global change and its likely effects, I find it helps to remind myself that change in the natural world is the rule, not the exception. Environments in the past were different from those we know today, and they'll be different in the future. Maintaining species populations and plant communities exactly as they are today is not a realistic, science-based goal. The challenge for conservation groups, including CNPS, is to start thinking more about what conservation means in a changing world.

chair. Sally Manning does so many things behind the scenes. Finally, I want to thank the rest of our Board members for their participation, input, advice, and support: Edyth Irvine, Sue Weis, Ann Fulton, EvelynMae Nikolaus, Kathleen Nelson, Stephen Ingram, Kathy LaShure, and Jan Bowers.

There's a lot to look forward to in 2009. We're starting to organize the summer sojourn, which will once again be held in the White Mountains. Stay tuned for details. With or without winter rains and snow, we'll have another good season of field trips.

I'm already looking forward to next fall's plant sale.

.....Steve McLaughlin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Help Rebuild the Bristlecone Visitor Center

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, in partnership with the Inyo National Forest, is actively raising funds to rebuild the Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center in the White Mountains, which was destroyed by a fire on September 4, 2008. One effort is their "Donate a Log" program. Those wishing to help can purchase a log for \$285, for which they'll receive a certificate. The Bristlecone Chapter will be contributing a log, and I urge members to consider making their own private donations. Checks should be made out to ESIA: Bristlecone Fund, and can be sent to John Louth, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, 798 North Main St., Bishop CA, 93514.

"Celebrating Community Connections"

The second Celebrating Community Connections (aka "Earth Day") event will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at the City Park in Bishop. The event will run from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will be activities, food, entertainment and information booths. The Bristlecone Chapter had a booth last year, where we sold shirts, hats, and plants. Look for more details in future newsletters.

Sierra Summer Sojourn – Save the Date!

The Bristlecone Chapter will host its second Sierra Summer Sojourn at White

Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek Facility July 17-19, 2009. We hope you will save the date and plan to come. Participants can register to stay at the facility Friday and Saturday nights or just Saturday night. Field trips will be conducted on Saturday beginning both in Big Pine and at Crooked Creek Facility and shorter field trips on Sunday from Crooked Creek. There will be an evening program focusing on the flora of the White Mountains on Saturday. You can count on lots of blooms, interesting conversations, spectacular vistas, an outstanding evening speaker, varied field trips and great food. More details and the registration form will be available on the Bristlecone Chapter website www.bristleconecnps.org in April. Space will be limited. Please note: Crooked Creek Facility is located at an altitude of 10,200 feet and some of the field trips will be conducted at an even higher elevation. You will want to consider the effects of altitude on your health before you plan to come.

CONSERVATION

Blame it on the Clean Air Act

The pervasiveness and success of DWP's "divide and conquer" strategy never ceases to amaze me. In the Inyo Register several articles appeared in November regarding the efforts of the county Agricultural Resources Advisory Board (ARAB) to insure local ranchers receive sufficient water. Under the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) DWP lessees are entitled to as much water as was provided during a baseline period in the early 1980's. Did ARAB contact DWP to make sure it was complying with this portion of the LTWA?

If it did, it didn't tell the Inyo Register. The IR reported that ARAB went to Inyo County Supervisors and wondered if perhaps water were being "wasted" by Great Basin Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) which regulates DWP's dust control efforts at Owens Lake under the Clean Air Act. County Supervisors then dragged in Air Pollution Control Officer Ted Schade to explain that DWP chooses from a list of approved methods exactly which ones to use for dust abatement. In other words, DWP – not GBUAPCD -- decides how much water to "waste" at Owens Lake.

If, in fact, Inyo Supervisors and the County Agricultural Commissioner really didn't know this, it reflects poorly on them, to say the least. Far worse, however, is that none of them seemed to understand that DWP's obligations to ranchers are fixed under the LTWA, which is independent of the Clean Air Act. In other words, DWP's obligations to abate dust at Owens Lake cannot legally be used as an excuse to cut back water to ranchers below levels specified in the LTWA. If DWP is not honoring its obligation under the LTWA no amount of innuendo about "wasting" water at Owens Lake will make any difference. DWP is using ARAB to divert attention from its apparent violations of the LTWA and, instead, shift blame to GBUAPCD.

The way to insure ranchers get sufficient water is to insist the LTWA be strictly enforced. With our current county leadership, unfortunately, that is not an option.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair.

Bristlecone Chapter Election Results

On November 19th The Bristlecone Chapter nominated the following Board Members for the 2009 term:

President: Steven McLaughlin
 Vice President: Sally Manning
 Treasurer: Rosanne Higley
 Secretary: Connie Spenger

Welcome to our new secretary Sally Manning and thanks to those willing to serve another term!

It's Not Too Late To Think About Spring

Project Budburst (http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/) is a way to collect important climate change data on the timing of leafing and flowering in your area. Project BudBurst is a national field campaign that targets native tree and flower species across the country. It's a great way to gather valuable environmental and climate change information from around the United States.

Follow these 5 simple steps to complete your phenological investigation!

For complete information, download the [Project BudBurst Activity Guide](#).

- 1) Select and identify your plant using the [plant list](#) or by [geographic area](#).
- 2) Describe the site where your plant is located. This includes finding the [latitude and longitude](#) of your site (a GPS unit is the ticket for this info).
- 3) Determine which [phenophase](#) (phenological stage) you are looking for (i.e. Budburst/First Leaf, First Flower). For help,

refer to the plant descriptions found in the [plant list](#).

4) Begin observations (before expected time of budding or flowering)!

5) [Report](#) your observations online.

[Register](#) online with Project BudBurst to save your observation sites and plants that you are monitoring throughout this year and for coming years. This allows you to report the phenological events as they occur each week!

Here's a partial list of some of the native trees and shrubs in our area to observe:

Native Trees/Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name
Antelope bitterbrush	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>
Blue elder, Common elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> (= <i>S. nigra</i>)
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Common snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> <i>albus</i>
Curl-leaf mountain mahogany, Mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus</i> <i>ledifolius</i>
Eastern serviceberry, juneberry	<i>Amelanchier</i> <i>canadensis</i>
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora floribunda</i>
Western serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i> <i>alnifolia</i>
Woods' rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>

Common Ornamentals

Forsythia *Forsythia x intermedia*

Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*

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 – Sally Manning (760) 873-3790
 Secretary – Connie Spenger (760)-938-2159
 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 - VACANT
 Programs – Sally Manning (760) 873-3790
 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. – Anne Halford (760) 872-5022
 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

The California Native Plant Society
 Bristlecone Chapter
 P.O. Box 364
 Bishop, CA 93515-0364
 PERMIT NO. 47

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 BISHOP, CA
 93515-0364

